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# CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Gorbachev Announces SS-20 Structures 'Dismantled' AA 1
Reagan CW Remarks Mix 'Peaceableness, Bellicosity' AA 1
[Yenikeyev]
PRAVDA Editorial Article Views "Geneva Accords' AA 1
[Dec 13]
First Tomahawk Missile Test Fails in Florida AA 5

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

U.S. Abstains on UN Vote Against Space Weapons CC 1
[Chernyshev]
UN Denounces Israeli, S. African Nuclear Plans CC 2
[Chernyshev]
UN Security Council Condemns War in Nicaragua CC 2
Reportage on NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting CC 2
Session Opens CC 2
Communique Adopted CC 3
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Views NATO Winter Sessions CC 4
[8 Dec]
IAEA Meeting Notes 'Fruitful' CEMA Assistance CC 7
Journalist Views Summit, Regional Issues CC 7
[Aden]

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Anchorage-Khabarovsk Communications Operational A 1
Impact of Pollard Spy Case on Relations Viewed A 1
Linked With Tunis Raid A 1
[Rassadin]
'Tip of an Iceberg' A 2
[Turkatenko]
U.S. Employees Required To Take Lie Detector Tests A 2
[Shalnev]
U.S. Experiments Compared With Nazi 'Atrocities' A 3
ASTEC Officials Comment on Conclusion of Session A 4
Scranton, Arbatov at Meeting A 4
[Rostov]
ASTEC Cochairmen Interviewed A 5
Commercial Talks Planned A 6
Weinberger Meets With French Defense Minister A 6

NORTHEAST ASIA

Primakov on Ties With Japan, Shevardnadze Visit C 1
[KYODO]
U.S., Japan Fail To Agree on Technology Exchange C 1

U.S. 'Pressure' C 2
[Korzin]
U.S. Military's 'Seizure' of Okinawa Condemned C 3

Journal Notes Japan's Links With Afghan 'Bandits' C 3
[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 11 Dec]
Briefs: Trade Ties With Japan C 3

SOUTH ASIA

DRA's Dost Departs Moscow En Route to Geneva D 1
Ground Forces Chief Ivanov to Visit India D 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Dec]
S. Asia Body Aims to Beat Western 'Blackmail' D 1
[Akhmedzyanov in IZVESTIYA 11 Dec]
'Repression' of Pakistani Pushtuns Continues D 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Dec]
3 DRA Antistate 'Criminals' Sentenced to Death D 2
Recent DRA Bombings Due to U.S. 'Disagreement D 2
[Fadeyev]
Karmal Discusses Possible Afghan Settlement D 4
[ZA RUBEZHOM No 5]

EASTERN EUROPE

Bulgaria's Mladenov Meets With Shevardnadze F 1
Lays Wreath at Monuments F 1
Nikonov's Activities in Yugoslavia Reported F 1
[PRAVDA 12 Dec]
Romanian Defense Minister Olteanu Tours Leningrad F 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Dec]
Construction of Gas Pipeline To Poland Completed F 3
Romania, CSSR Communique Supports Summit Stance F 3

WESTERN EUROPE

French National Assembly President Visits Moscow G 1
Received by Voss G 1
Meets With Gorbachev G 1
IZVESTIYA Interviews Mermaz G 3
[12 Dec]
French Conference Held on Military Response to SDI G 4
[Kopatin]
Tolkunov Delegation Meets With FRG Parliamentarians G 4
FRG Communist Party Delegation Visits Moscow G 5
[PRAVDA 9 Dec]
Finnish Social Democrats Visit 2-9 Dec G 5
[PRAVDA 12 Dec]
Finland's Sorsa Discusses Beneficial Energy Ties G 6
[Dodonov]
Matveyev Assesses EEC Luxembourg Summit G 6
[IZVESTIYA 10 Dec]
Bulgarian Committee Statement on Antonov Release G 8

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

French Paper on KGB Retaliatory Kidnapping H 1
[Paris LIBERATION 11 Dec]

Retaliatory Terrorism in Beirut Denied H 1
Algerian Party Official Comments on Visit H 2
Primakov on Ties With Saudi Arabia, Israel H 3

[KYODO]

GORBACHEV ANNOUNCES SS-20 STRUCTURES 'DISMANTLED'

LD121747 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 12 TASS -- General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Mikhail Gorbachev, receiving chairman of France's National Assembly Louis Mermaz today, stated:

The Soviet Union's reainess to do everything in its power for resolving the problems of disarmament is confirmed by weighty practical steps. Thus, it was announced during the visit to France that the Soviet Union, at its own initiative, had removed the SS-20 missiles, additionally deployed earlier on in the European zone, from standby alert, while stationary structures for the missiles would be dismantled in the following two months. The USSR has kept its promise -- the dismantling has been completed.

REAGAN CW REMARKS MIX 'PEACEABLENESS, BELLICOSITY'

LD122213 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] In an interview with the West German magazine DIE WELT, President Reagan touched upon the problems of banning chemical weapons. Our observer, Viktor Yenikeyev, comments:

President Reagan's replies were a blend of peaceableness and bellicosity. For instance, he voiced satisfaction with Mikhail Gorbachev's approach to the problem of banning chemical weapons and regretted the lack of progress at the Geneva talks on chemical weapons. On the other hand, the President made it clear that America would continue building up its stockpiles of chemical weapons in response to what he termed as Soviet potentialities in the field.

This remark greatly devalues his peace rhetoric; in fact this means the United States will continue implementing its chemical rearmament program worth over 10 billion dollars. Such, regrettably, has been Washington's standard reply to the vigorous efforts the Soviet Union has been bending over many years to sign an agreement that would ban chemical weapons once and for all.

The United States has stockpiled such an immense arsenal of toxic chemicals that would be enough to destroy everything living on earth several times over. More than that, America has developed a new and more deadly chemical weapon, binary shells, designed as before for deployment in Europe. The Pentagon plans to outfit Pershing and Tomahawk missiles in the NATO countries with them. As the tragedy in Bhopal showed, conventional chemicals can trigger off a global disaster. If you recall, there was a poisonous gas leak at the Union Carbide factory in that Indian city. Concrete measures are needed to eliminate this danger. Regrettably, President Reagan did not say anything about that in the interview with DIE WELT.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL ARTICLE VIEWS 'GENEVA ACCORDS'

LD121831 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 12 Dec 85

["To Realize Geneva Accords" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 12 TASS -- The newspaper PRAVDA, in its December 13 issue, carries an editorial article entitled "To Realize Geneva Accords", which says:

Time is carrying us further away from the days of 1985 when General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan had a meeting in Geneva on November 19-21. This event remains, however, without exaggeration, in the focus of attention worldwide. Its results, direct influence on the course of international affairs and possible implications for the development of the situation in the long run are being examined everywhere.

The great work, carried out by the Soviet delegation in Geneva, received enthusiastic support from the Soviet people and unanimous approval from allies and friends of the Soviet Union, finds broad understanding, approval and backing from realistically minded state and political figures, wide sections of the world public.

It is already clear to all that the Geneva meeting has become a major political event of international life. In the current turning period in the development of international relations, in the conditions when mankind is facing the choice of survival or the threat of annihilation, the Soviet-American summit meeting was necessary and useful. Its results create possibilities for transition from the state of dangerous confrontation to constructive searches for ways to normalize Soviet-American relations and improve the international situation on the whole.

The meeting centred on the most vital, most burning problem of our time -- the problem of war and peace. In the course of hard, sometimes, acute negotiations, the sides impartially examined and assessed the central problem of Soviet-American relations -- the security problem, and above all preventing an arms race in outer space and reducing nuclear armaments on earth in their organic interrelationship. Regrettably, no accord was achieved on this issue. At the same time, it is of principled significance that the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States declared in their joint statement: A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. They emphasized the importance of preventing any war between the two countries, whether nuclear or conventional, and undertook not to seek to achieve military superiority.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committe in its decision on the results of the meeting pointed out that, in this sense, the outcome of the Geneva talks is capable of exerting positive influence on the political and psychological climate in present-day international relations, improving them and diminishing the risk of nuclear war. The meeting laid the groundwork for dialogue with a view to achieving changes for the better in Soviet-American relations, and in the world at large. [Moscow TASS in English at 2300 GMT on 12 December transmitted a service message deleting the preceding sentence.]

The Soviet Union convincingly favours the consolidation of trust between all states, development of equitable mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation between them, irrespective of differences in their socio-political systems.

The Soviet Union and the United States bear special responsibility for the character of world development due to their military, economic, scientific and technical potential, and international weight. The results of the summit meeting show that the USSR in its approach to the Geneva dialogue took into account its historical responsibility for the destinies of peace.

Meanwhile, the most reactionary circles of U.S. imperialism, the military-industrial complex and its placement in the American Administration did their utmost up to the final day on the eve of the summit to either thwart it, or turn this major political dialogue into a "dialogue of the deaf". The story with the "leakage" of the notorious "Weinberger letter" in which the Pentagon chief urged the President not to concede on a single item of the agenda of the talks is only one of the illustrations of the attempts to torpedo the meeting.

The Soviet Union realistically assessed the existing situation: The course towards confrontation, adopted by the overseas "hawks", is unpopular in America, in Western Europe and the world at large. We proceeded from the premise that it is necessary to use any, no matter how slight, chance to reverse the dangerous course of world events. That is precisly why the USSR, in the process of preparations for the meeting, combined a firm rebuff to the U.S. line toward disrupting military-strategic equilibrium with the advancement of large-scale peace initiatives, manifestation of constructiveness in the approach to the questions of peace and security.

The same approach was displayed in the course of the Geneva meeting to which the Soviet Union came with the realization that, if a direct and frank dialogue is not started today, this will be a hundred times more difficult to do tomorrow, if not altogether impossible.

The USSR came to Geneva with a concrete programme of improving the international atmosphere and bilateral relations between the two countries, with radical proposals in the field of arms reduction and concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

What is the essence of the Soviet proposals? They are based on the premise that Soviet-American relations must adhere to the immutable principle -- that of ensuring equal security for both sides. It is necessary to get used to strategic parity as the natural state of bilateral relations.

The unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, introduced by the Soviet side, is of immense importance for preserving and strengthening peace. If the United States agrees to stop nuclear blasts, the moratorium will become termless. As a result, an end will be put to the improvement of nuclear weapons and they will begin gradually to wither away.

The USSR proposed a total ban on strike space araments. No matter how they might be called -- a "Strategic Defence Initiative" (SDI) on developing anti-missile systems, a space "shield", and so on, the peoples ought to know the truth about them. And we frankly set forth this truth in Geneva again and again. The development of strike space armaments will not strengthen anyone's security. On the contrary, nuclear systems, protected by a space "shield", will become ever more dangerous.

As a result, the existing treaty mechanisms curbing the arms race, primarily the ABN Treaty, will collapse and the present-day strategic balance will therefore be reduced to strategic chaos, pushing up the feverish arms race in every direction to a point at which it will become totally uncontrollable. Mistrust among countries will grow and their security will diminish considerably.

Space weapons are not at all defensive. They can give rise to the dangerous illusion that it is possible to deliver the first nuclear strike from behind a space "shield" and and to avert or at least weaken retaliation. There is no guarantee that those who will develop the "shield" will not be tempted to use space weapons also to hit targets on earth.

Proceeding from the principle of equality and equal security, the USSR suggested that all the nuclear systems of the USSR and the USA capable of reaching each other's territories be reduced by half on the condition of a total ban on space strike weapons.

Our approach is fair and honest. It embraces all those systems which enter the strategic balance of forces and makes it possible to account for the dimensions of the nuclear threat actually facing each of the sides.

The Soviet proposals are not aimed at detracting from U.S. security. This is noted, in particular, by many arms specialists, among them even former U.S. defense secretaries. The lamentations of the Pentagon propagandists that the USSR's proposals are aimed at "preserving intact" its more accurate and powerful missiles are intended for the uninformed. Our proposals envision that the number of such ICBMs will be reduced and that the share of their warheads in the total of nuclear munitions will be limited.

Certain circles in the West also are making much fuss over Soviet medium-range missiles. We offer substantial reductions in them in the context of the solution of the problem of medium-range nuclear systems in Europe.

But this problem cannot be tackled without counting the nuclear systems of Britain and France. We are ready to look for solutions here as well and to this end the Soviet Union suggests that direct exchanges of opinion with France and Britain be started.

The U.S. President was upholding in Geneva, with perseverance worthy of a better cause, the legal and moral right of his country to pursue the "star wars" program. The U.S. position rules out any ban on the development of space strike weapons. Moreover, the proposal was made that their development should be "legalized."

We said most definitely in Geneva: The USSR will find an answer to the deployment of space strike weapons. Past experience bears proof to this. Moreover, it will be an effective and quite prompt answer which would be less costly than the U.S. program. But this will be done only if we have no other choice. Our preference is a different road, "star peace" rather than "star wars."

The Geneva talks on the problems of curbing the arms race were keen and utmostly frank. Political and propaganda trivialities have no room here: Too much depends on the solution of these problems.

The unwillingness of the U.S. leadership to renounce the "star wars" program made it impossible in Geneva to find solutions to major questions related to the task of ending the arms race. The numbers of stockpiled weapons have not diminished as a result of the summit and the arms race is going on.

Continuing to uphold its positions of principle, the Soviet delegation made immense efforts to achieve accords on major problems of war and peace.

To begin with, the sides agreed to speed up the accomplishment of the tasks formulated in the joint Soviet-American statement of January 1985, those of averting an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, limiting and reducing nuclear armaments and strengthening strategic stability.

Clearly, the positions of the two sides have points of contact and make it possible to look for mutually acceptable solutions on radical reductions in nuclear armaments with a ban on space strike weapons. New radical reductions in nuclear armaments are not possible without the latter. It is to be hoped that what Washington said on the SDI in Geneva was not its last word. At the same time it is clear that the fact of continued talks must not in itself be a justification or cover for the arms race.

The USSR and the USA reiterated in Geneva also their commitment to contribute in every way to the higher effectiveness of the regime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and agreed on joint practical steps in that field. This also is a contribution to maintaining world stability and belittling the risk of nuclear war.

The joint advocacy of the universal and complete elimination of such barbarous weapons of mass destruction as chemical weapons by the leaders of the USSR and the USA has fundamental importance.

Agreement was reached to contribute, jointly with the other states participating in the Stockholm conference to its early completion with the adoption of a document which would include both concrete commitments on the non-use of force and mutually acceptable confidence-building measures.

Recognizing the usefulness of the exchanges of opinion on regional questions, the sides agreed to continue such exchanges on a regular basis.

Useful agreements were reached on a number of other questions of the development of bilateral cooperation between the USSR and the USA. They can provide a good base for raising the level of trust between our countries and peoples, naturally, if care is taken of those agreements and if everything positive inbuilt in them is developed rather than artificial pretexts looked for to overturn them.

Accord was reached in Geneva -- and it is very important -- that political contacts between the USSR and the USA, first and foremost summit-level contacts, would be continued.

The Geneva meeting has major importance, primarily because it is opening possibilities for the normalization of relations between the USSR and the USA and for an overall improvement in the international situation. The agreements reached in Geneva can exert a long-term positive influence on the course of world development if they are translated into practical deeds.

The Soviet side regards the accords reached in Geneva in all seriousness and will be seeking to improve both the overall atmosphere and the contents of Soviet-American relations on the basis of mutual respect and full equality without any discrimination. The USSR is prepared in the spirit of honest cooperation with the United States to seek the folding up of the arms race if it is kept away from space, and to improve the world situation. We have a right to expect a similar approach from the USA. "...We have entered a particularly crucial period, when words, intentions and political statements should be translated into concrete decisions and action," Mikhail Gorbachev said in his speech on the occasion of the annual ASTEC meeting. "What I have in mind, as you understand, are such decisions and such actions as would contribute to putting Soviet-American relations on an even keel and to a general improvement in the world political climate."

FIRST TOMAHAWK MISSILE TEST FAILS IN FLORIDA

LD091513 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, December 9 TASS -- The first testing of a cruise missile "Tomahawk" in the zone of the east coast of the USA has been a failure. According to a spokesman for the Pentagon, the missile was launched from a submarine in the Gulf of Mexico, but because of a malfunction of the control system an order came from a surveillance plane to stop the flight and a parachuting system was activated. The missile fell near the city of Freeport in Florida State and was then delivered to the Eglin Airforce base.

The testing held was one of the elements of the programme for a re-equipment of the U.S. Navy, within whose framework it is planned to purchase nearly 4,000 cruise missiles "Tomahawk" for equipping 190 surface ships and submarines.

U.S. ABSTAINS ON UN VOTE AGAINST SPACE WEAPONS

LD131002 Moscow TASS in English 0823 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] New York, December 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Chernyshev reporting

By an overwhelming majority of votes the 40th session of the United Nations General Assembly Thursday [12 December] approved a resolution on key issues of disarmament. The document was sponsored by socialist countries with the U.S.S.R. at the head and many non-aligned states which supported them. Thus, the international community gave a broad backing to the Soviet Union-proposed comprehensive complex of measures that block all the ways of the arms race, be it in space or on earth, be it nuclear, chemical or conventional weapons. A broad response was evoked by the concept of "star peace" advanced by the Soviet Union as a counter-balance to sinister "star wars" plans. A resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space embodying the most important ideas set forth in the Soviet proposal for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space in the conditions of its non-militarization was supported by 151 nations. Not a single resolution on disarmament issues has received a bigger number of votes. Only the United States abstaining during the voting on that proposal which calls for preventing weapons from making their way into space. (sentence as received) The isolation of the U.S. was only underscored by the fact that the sole delegation that supported its position was that of the puppet regime of Grenada.

Only three Western nuclear powers -- the United States, Great Britain and France -- voted against the resolution calling for the immediate termination and prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. The resolution was initiated by the Soviet Union and a number of socialist countries. That document stresses the imperative need of concluding a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests by all states with a view to stopping and reversing the race in nuclear arms and ultimately achieving their complete elimination. The international community welcomed the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions and urged all the countries to follow that example.

Most of the other 35 resolutions on disarmament issues endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly chart ways for improving the international climate. These are primarily the resolutions on a nuclear arms freeze, on the prohibition of the development and production of new types of mass annihilation weapons and new systems of such weapons, on no first use of nuclear weapons, on the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons, and on curbing the race in naval armaments. The fact that the General Assembly approved the mentioned resolutions reflects the growing awareness of nations that it is important to take urgent and responsible decisions and adopt concrete measures to break the vicious circle of the arms race for the benefit of safeguarding the civilization and the very life on earth.

In the words of T. Suliotis, rapporteur of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which discussed disarmament issues, the tasks of terminating the arms race on earth and preventing it in space are now a matter of prime concern for all humankind. It would like to see the positive results of one of the most important international events of recent time -- the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva -- to be realized exactly along these lines. The delegates to the United Nations General Assembly noted with regret that in the concrete approach to disarmament issues actions of the United States and a group of its closet NATO partners are still directed at obstructing the efforts of the United Nations in this field.

Not to mention the U.S. refusal to join the international community on the matter of preventing an arms race in space, the United States voted against, and twice in complete isolation, when other drafts were put to vote.

UN DENOUNCLS ISRAELI, S. AFRICAN NUCLEAR PLANS

LD122017 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] New York, December 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Chernyshev reports:

The U.N. General Assembly has called for establishing nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, in Africa, and declared for consolidation of the treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. In a series of resolutions which were adopted today on these issues the international community noted to grave concern over nuclear preparations of Israel and the Republic of South Africa which threaten universal peace and security. The United Nations denounced all forms of cooperation of any state or corporation with the South African racists in the nuclear sphere and demanded an immediate end to such cooperation.

The U.N. General Assembly noted with serious concern and anxiety Israel's stubborn refusal to undertake the obligation not to produce and not to acquire nuclear weapons despite repeated calls on the part of the United Nations Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the refusal to put the Israeli nuclear units under the control of that agency. In the document it is noted that international peace and security are imperiled by the Tel Aviv-Pretoria cooperation in developing nuclear weapons and delivery systems. Western supporters and accomplices with the United States at the head alone took the Israeli aggressors and South African racists under protection.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS WAR IN NICARAGUA

LD130628 Moscow TASS in English 0616 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] New York, December 13 TASS -- The U.N. Security Council has strongly condemned the dirty war in Nicaragua waged by the United States with the hands of counter-revolutionary bands, trained by the Central Intelligence Agency. The U.N. Security Council meeting, which was called at the request of the Nicaraguan Government, wound up a debate on the exacerbation of the situation in Central America, which was caused by the escalation of the U.S. aggression. Representatives of Latin America and other non-aligned states, who took the floor at the meeting, persistently pointed out that the present-day dangerous situation has been sequel to the U.S. attempts to destabilize the situation in Nicaragua and simultaneously sow discord among the Central American countries.

REPORTAGE ON NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Session Opens

LD121315 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Brussels, December 12 TASS -- The NATO's Council's two-day session, the final stage of the winter-time "Atlantic Marathon" -- a series of conferences among the leading bodies of the North Atlantic bloc -- opened here today.

It is being attended by the ministers of foreign affairs of the 16 member-countries of the alliance. The foreign ministers are to couch in a diplomatic form the guidelines for a further build-up of the bloc's military potential and for the exercise of its military-political strategy for the near future and for a longer term, particularly in the light of the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva. Concrete decisions on that score were taken by the defence ministers at the sessions of NATO"s Eurogroup and the defence planning committee.

The decisions of those bodies and the pronouncements voiced at their sessions were indicative of an intention to proceed along the arms race course and, in particular, to go ahead with the deployment of new U.S. first-strike missiles in Western Europe, with the modernization and build-up of conventional arms.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived in Western Europe before the session, has already called on the NATO partners to show caution and vigilance when interpreting the results of the Geneva summit. During bilateral meetings he went on manipulating his West European colleagues with a view to drawing them into participation in the "Star Wars" programme which is being developed by Washington. With this end in view the United States, is planning widely to use Britain which always obediently follows in the wake of Washington's policy, and with which an agreement on its participation in the SDI has already been signed. The United States also tries to secure an official consent on that score from the FRG before the year is out.

It is pointed out in the NATO circles that the "star wars" topic will figure prominently in discussions at the NATO Council's session. The problems of dividing the "pie" of military orders will be discussed there at the same time. In this field, there is an intensifying rivalry between the military-industrial complexes of the United States and of its West European partners.

The Belgian press reports that the NATO Council's session will become a continuation of the pressure put on Holland by the USA and its closest allies for the purpose of making the government of that country reconsider its decision to give up the accomplishment of part of "nuclear missions" -- the use of some types of nuclear weapons in the event of war -- assigned to it by the NATO leadership.

Communique Adopted

LD121938 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Brussels, December 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent: Albert Balebanov reports:

The foreign ministers of the NATO member-countries, attending the NATO Council session here, today approved of a new strategy to improve cooperation in the sphere of armaments. Judging by the communique, which has been distributed here, what is at issue is only..."a search for ways" of attaining these aims.

An official representative of the NATO headquarters has admitted at a press conference that it would be an exceedingly painful and difficult process for partners to be pleased with such cooperation. This is no wonder since the United States has monopolized the exceedingly profitable NATO market of armaments and bars its allies from that market. It is to be noted that the communique did not reflect at all the West Europeans' complaint of long standing that it is necessary to have in the sphere of purchases of armaments a "two-way traffic" between the United States and Western Europe.

But the main thing is that the communique does not mention at all the slightest possibility for the NATO bloc to end the arms race which is being steadily escalated by the Pentagon. In other words, in NATO they do not even think of giving up the former militaristic course. This means that also after the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva the NATO men, above all from the United States, continue making stake on the force of arms.

Another confirmation of that course is the information, that leaked into journalists' circles, on bilateral contacts which were undertaken in Burssels by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during yesterday and today. One of the topics of his conversations with the FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has reportedly been Bonn's early involvement into the American "star wars" programme.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA VIEWS NATO WINTER SESSIONS

PM091434 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Dec 85 Second Edition p 3

[Captain 2d Rank V. Kuzar "Military-Political Review": "NATO: New Words, Same Old Policy"]

[Text] "The European home is a common home, where geography and history have closely intertwined the fates of dozens of countries and peoples. The Europeans can preserve their home and make it better and safer only collectively, by observing the sensible norms of international contacts and cooperation." This statement by M.S. Gorbachev in his report to the USSR Supreme Soviet session not only demonstrates the Soviet Union's anxiety over Europe's future fate; it also indicates the way to ensure security in the continent. It is a vitally important task of European peoples to seek the relaxation of tension and the strengthening of trust among peoples collectively, by means of joint efforts.

Displaying concern for a radical reduction of the level of nuclear confrontation in Europe taking into account the interests of the USSR, the United States, and all states in the continent, the Soviet Union has put forward specific and far-reaching proposals. Their implementation would undoubtedly lead to Europe's total liberation from nuclear weapons -- both medium-range and tactical -- which would ultimately help to consolidate the security of all European peoples and of peoples all over the world.

It is, of course, very important in today's conditions for all West European countries, and primarily the NATO member-states, to actively contribute to this process. This is why people of good will waited impatiently to see how the NATO states' leaders would respond to the Soviet peace-loving actions.

In the event, they did not have to wait too long. A number of conferences, sessions, and meetings of West European politicians, statesmen, and military men took place this week. They included the Luxembourg session of the European Council at the level of EEC member-states' heads of state and government, the 31st session of the Western European Union Assembly, and the Brussels sessions of NATO's military organs. What was the general outcome?

Quite a few new-sounding words were spoken in Luxembourg, in Paris, and in Brussles about the complex situation in the world and on the continent and about the need to halt the arms race and achieve disarmement. A positive evaluation was made of the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva. Hopes were expressed concerning the possibility of making progress in the easing of international tension.

Unfortunately, however, matters did not progress any further than words. The specific decisions and recommendations adopted at these conferences, and primarily at the NATO organs' sessions, are evidence of a continuation of the course previously pursued by ruling circles in most North Atlantic bloc countries; a course aimed at attaining military superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact.

Take for example the 2 December session of NATO's Eurogroup. It was attended by defense ministers from 12 West European bloc member-countries (excluding France and Iceland). The participants in the session directly confirmed in the final communique their intention to continue building relations with the socialist countries from positions of strength. They not only advocated a continuation of the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles on the continent, but also expressed "satisfaction" with the fact that their deployemnt "is proceeding on schedule." And yet it is well known that it was the appearance of these first-strike nuclear weapons on West European territory that led to an exacerbation of the international situation and is a serious obstacle to the relaxation of that situation.

The defense ministers approved the efforts made by NATO's European members to boost the bloc's military power. The communique makes it clear that stockpiles of ammunition for the most important combat systems have been increased and that measures are being taken to enhance NATO's capability to conduct combat operations over an extended period of time. The funds allocated for improving the bloc's infrastructure are double the previous amount. Extensive programs to modernize military equipment and materiel are being implemented in all European NATO countries.

But the Atlanticists did not find all this sufficient. The NATO Eurogroup adopted a decision on the further buildup of conventional arms. For example, purchases in 1986 will include 900 new tanks and armored vehicles, mainly Leopard-2 and Challenger tanks; 100 heavy field guns; 250 warplanes, including 180 Tornadoes and F-16's; an aircraft carrier, 3 submarines, and 6 landing ships: and large quantities of other combat equipment. At the same time the desire to continue efforts to standardize armaments and create new types of them was emphasized.

Even more militaristic decisions were made at the session of the NATO Military Planning Committee, which was attended by defense ministers and chief of general staff from NATO countries (excluding France) and commanders of the NATO allied forces. This was no accident. The tone there was set by U.S. Secretary of Defense C. Weinberger. He actively "indoctrinated" his partners, seeking their support for the "star wars" program. And he found people willing to help the Pentagon in its criminal plans.

Immediately after the NATO session, Weinberger and British Defense Secret Heseltine made their way to London. They signed there, on 6 December, a "memorandum of understanding" providing for Britain's participation in research work for the implementation of the U.S. "strategic defense initiative." Britain has thus become the first European country to agree to participate in a most dangerous venture by those who are straining to achieve military hegemony on earth and in space.

West Germany is also due to determine its final attitude toward the "star wars" program by the end of this year. Meanwhile, FRG Defense Minister Woerner "announced" at the Military Planning Committee's session a new militarist production program, the so-called "European Defense Initiative" (EDI). Its goal is to...supplement Washington's "Strategic Defense Initiative" with some kind of a "European alternative." It became known that it involves the creation [sozdaniye] of an ABM system designed to destroy missiles and aircraft by using the latest military-technical means, including laser weapons.

It appears that, according to DER SPIEGEL'a reports, these plans originated in Bonn back in 1982, in other words, immediately after the right-wing conservative government came to power. By now the "Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm" and "Karl Diehl" military concerns have already created [sozdat] a mock-up of a laser installation for destroying airborne targets. A few more years and "a few hundred million deutschmarks" will be required to complete the development [razrabotka] of combat laser installations and begin their series production.

The creation [sozdaniye] of an electromagnetic gun is another avenue of development [razrabotka] in progress. Both types of weapons are being developed [razrabatyvatsya] as ground-based means, while their ancillary search and guidance facilities will be space-based.

Woerner's NATO colleagues have not yet determined their attitude toward this idea. But U.S. General Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander Europe, "has spoken very highly of the "SDI." As DER SPIEGEL notes, he considers that such a system is perfectly realistic, provided "the Europeans pool their potential and coordinate the relevant work with the U.S. SDI program." Detailed comment is superfluous here, so to speak. What we have here is a manifestation of West German militarism's imperial ambitions. Being the initiator of a qualitatively new military program implemented under its direct leadership, Bonn is bidding for a dominant role among the West European NATO allies.

Following the Pentagon chief's lead, the participants in the NATO session exerted particular pressure on the Netherlands, which has decided to curtail the performance of some of the nuclear tasks assigned to it by the bloc's leadership. It is well known that the Netherlands, according to the distribution of NATO roles, must store, service, and be ready to use nuclear landmines and warheads for the Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missiles, depth charges for the Orion P-3C aircraft, bombs for the F-16 fighter-interceptors, warheads for the Lance tactical missiles, and shells for 203.2 mm artillery pieces.

The Netherlands Government is now abandoning some of these tasks in connection with the agreement to deploy 48 U.S. cruise missiles. It is thus trying to blunt the edge of demonstrations by members of the antimissile movement. But this "willfulness" has angered the NATO ruling clique, which fears the creation of a "dangerous precedent."

Addressing the Military Planning Committee's session, the Pentagon chief announced the U.S. Senate's decision to appropriate $200 million for the construction of facilities linked with the deployment of U.S. cruise missiles in West European countries. What does this action by Washington indicate? It indicates that the Pentagon intends to establish itself with its nuclear missiles firmly and for a long time on the European Continent. The solemn declaration by the participants in the NATO session of their "readiness" to halt the deployment of medium-range nuclear means and even to embark on their reduction, elimination, and dismantling "in the event that a balanced, fair, and verifiable agreement is reached" somehow does not square with this intention.

For several years now the Atlanticists have discussed at their sessions the question of expanding NATO's zone of responsibility. This formula covers up plans to ensure direct armed participation by the bloc countries in resolving conflicts and in stifling struggles by freedom-loving peoples practically anywhere on the planet. This has already happened during the Anglo-Argentine war for the Falklands (Malvinas), the show of strength in the Persian Gulf and off the Nicaraguan coast, and the armed interference in Lebanon's affairs. And now the NATO countries are concentrating their forces in the southern Mediterranean, spearheading them against the conflict between Egypt and Libya, which is growing as a result of Washington's incitement.

As for the latest session of NATO's Military Planning Committee, its participants again spoke in favor of expanding the zone of the bloc's responsibility. Hiding behind the imaginary threat against "vitally important interests of members of the alliance," they voted for taking compensatory measures to ensure the use of the U.S. interventionist Rapid Deployment Force outside the North Atlantic bloc's sphere of action.

Many of the problems that were touched upon at the Atlantic sessions will be discussed and approved at the NATO Council session. Its work at the level of the bloc member-countries' foreign ministers will take place 12-13 December. It is, nevertheless, already perfectly obvious that, by stepping up their military efforts and contrary to all reason, the enemies of detente are planting a dangerous mine beneath the foundations of our common European home.

Europe is being subjected to grave danger by the strongarm policy preached by the Atlanticists under pressure from the transatlantic "hawks." But it can and must set an example in the solution of the most complex problems of life today and play an important role in overcoming the phase of confrontation and affirming the policy of easing tension. The Soviet Union persistently calls on the European peoples to do this.

## IAEA MEETING NOTES 'FRUITFUL' CEMA ASSISTANCE

LD122332 Moscow TASS in English 2308 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Vienna, December 12 TASS -- An auspicious effect of the Soviet-American summit in Geneva on the further development of international cooperation, inter alia, in using atomic energy for peaceful purposes, was noted at a meeting of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency here. It was attended by delegates from 35 countries.

Speakers at the meeting pointed out the high appreciation of IAEA's activities in the joint Soviet-American statement, which confirms the high prestige of that organization, contributing to social and economic development and to stronger peace and trust among states.

Speakers at the meeting noted the energetic and fruitful activities of the USSR and other members countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the work of the agency, specifically, in IAEA's technical assistance and cooperation program. A large atomic power industry is being developed in the CMEA member countries on the basis of specialization and broad cooperation. Agreements concluded in that field have provided the basis for drafting a long-term program to produce machinery and equipment for atomic power stations. As a consequence, a new industry, atomic power machinery building, has been developed in a number of CMEA countries and other industries have made progress.

## JOURNALIST VIEWS SUMMIT, REGIONAL ISSUES

GF121800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 85

[From the "News and Reports" program]

[Text] The television program "The Weekly Meeting" yesterday conducted an interview with Aleksandr Smirnov, APN deputy chief editor of Middle East and Africa [name and title as heard], who is currently visiting the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] as part of the USSR journalist delegation participating in the eighth meeting of the rehabilitation and training committee of the world journalist organization.

The interview covered a number of international issues, foremost being the USSR-U.S. meeting recently held in Geneva. Aleksandr Smirnov noted that the road to the 3-day meeting between CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan was not easy because the United States placed various obstacles before the meeting. These obstacles were represented in the deployment of the medium-range and long-range missiles despite the USSR's constructive stand and the wide popular opposition in more than one European country. He added that the U.S. side recently put forward a very serious program called "star wars," in addition to the U.S. policy of stockpiling nuclear arms and missiles. This, he said, will aggravate threats to humanity.

Smirnov pointed out that the Geneva meeting was in fact a serious matter in view of the U.S. escalation of the international situation and its military threats and intervention. He referred to the U.S. role in Afghanistan, which is a progressive country whose people are facing an undeclared war by the United States. He added that the United States is training mercenaries and providing them with funds and arms in order to topple the legitimate government in that country. He said the same thing is also going on in Nicaragua Angola, Mozambique, and all countries which have independent progress.

Smirnov referred to the U.S. stand on central issues, like "star wars," and said: The United States has not so far been ruled by logic and the demands of the world people. On the true regional crises, he noted that the United States made a proposal which is basically rejected. He said:

[Begin Smirnov recording in Arabic] On the regional crises, there is a big and strong dispute on regional crises because the United States, before and during the Geneva summit, made a proposal which is basically rejected on such crises -- true crises -- in which many people are suffering from oppression, their rights are usurped, and they are subjected to aggression. Their right to live on their land and their human rights as a whole are usurped. The most evident examples of this are the Palestinian issue, the issue of southern Lebanon, and South Africa. In South Africa, many Africans are oppressed and they are subjected to the ugliest forms of oppression, torture, and mass killing by a group of white rulers. Regrettably, the United States did not include these serious problems in its list of regional crises. Rather, it insisted on the treatment of other crises including the situation in Nicaragua, in which the crisis was caused by U.S. military and political interference and all its forms of sabotage, piracy, and intervention against this country, its system, and its legitimate government. Other examples are Afghanistan and Angola [words indistinct]. Washington wants the USSR to withdraw from these countries. Revolutionary governments [words indistinct] to withdraw and give up in favor of counterrevolutions and mercenaries [words indistinct] Mr Reagan. This is rejected because the right of people and progressive governments [words indistinct] to choice of progress, socialism and national development without interference cannot be usurped. [end recording]

## ANCHORAGE-KHABAROVSK COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONAL

LD110428 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1646 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] Khabarovsk, 10 Dec (TASS) -- A direct communications channel linking the international airports of Khabarovsk (in the east of the USSR) and Anchorage (in Alaska) has begun to operate. It has been brought into use in accordance with the tripartite agreement between the air traffic control centers in Khararovsk, Anchorage, and Tokyo that provides for the safety of flights in the northen part of the Pacific Ocean.

Anatoliy Chumachenko, the head of the Khabarovsk air traffic controllers' service, drew the attention of the TASS correspondent to the map of "NOPAC" (north Pacific) routes. On these routes, we said, airliners from companies of a whole number of countries cut across the neutral waters of the Pacific Ocean. The considerable length of the routes and the difficulty of flights over the ocean have demanded enhanced cooperation from the air traffic control ground stations. Up until now air traffic control has been carried out only by the services of the United States and Japan.

Active participation by the USSR is also provided for in the provision of assistance to aircraft requesting an emergency landing. The operational interaction of the controllers of the three countries (the communications channel with Tokyo was operational earlier) will make it possible for crews to make the only correct decision. Khabarovsk can serve as an emergency airport, with technical means providing for the acceptance of any type of aircraft, even in poor weather conditions. Options have been worked out for landing at the airports of Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island.

## IMPACT OF POLLARD SPY CASE ON RELATIONS VIEWED

### Linked With Tunis Raid

LD062114 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Certain new details in the scandal over the spying activities by one Pollard in the United States for Israel have come to light. Our correspondent in Cairo, Leonid Rassadin, reports:

You will recall that this professional U.S. intelligence officer was recently arrested in the United States and accused of passing secret military information to Israel. The Israeli Government, trying by all possible means to hush up this family scandal -- meaning the friendly relations between Tel Aviv and Washington -- publicly apologized to the U.S. Administration. All the passions appear to have died down and a decision was even taken to carry out a joint investigation. For the time being the chiefs of the Israeli special services are naturally in no hurry to answer questions about this extremely strange case of spying.

It is strange first and foremost because the United States and Israel are bound by accords on strategic cooperation and already exchange intelligence information regularly. So who was it that needed Pollard to carry out his activity? It turns out, as Israeli radio reports, that it was possibly he who passed precise and detailed information about the position of the PLO headquarters in Tunis to Israel. What happened after that is well known. The Israeli Air Force carried out a barbarous raid on that district of the Tunisian capital. Many dozens of civilians were killed and wounded.

In this connection, observers do not rule out that Pollard, working at the same time for Israel, was simply a convenient figure for the U.S. war department. Through him -- and with the knowledge of the Pentagon -- intelligence information was passed to Tel Aviv, including information from U.S. spy satellites.

By arresting Pollard, the Washington administration is trying to distract the Arabs' attention from the accords on strategic cooperation existing between the United States and Israel and thus, to cover up the traces of its direct complicity in the criminal, inhuman actions of the Israeli military against the Arabs in the Middle East.

'Tip of an Iceberg'

LD120830 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, December 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports: The State Department has conceded that Israel's spying on its chief patron and "strategic ally", the United States, has not been limited to the activities of Jonathan Pollard, U.S. Navy intelligence analyst.

Initially, both Washington and Tel Aviv tried to play down the corresponding revelations as concerning an "isolated case" and a "regrettable mistake". But the latest statement by a spokesmen for the State Department has clearly contradicted such claims. He said, for instance, that the United States and Israel would continue discussing not only the Pollard case but also other related activities in U.S. territory, which were not compatible with Tel Aviv's official policy.

The State Department spokesman confirmed that the Pollard case was only the tip of an iceberg. The forced admission points to the failure of the U.S. and Israeli Governments' efforts to hush up the scandal which has provoked an angry public outburst. More fuel to the fire has been added by the Israeli Government's maneuvering after being requrested by the U.S. Administration to send Israeli diplomats, who hurriedly left the United States without the knowledge of American authorities on the day after Pollard's arrest, back to Washington for an "interview". It has been found out in the course of an ongoing investigation that it is these "diplomats" that directed and funded the spy's activities and received the classified documents he had been able to obtain.

Washington has also demanded that the American authorities be provided with all documents stolen by Pollard to evaluate the damage done to U.S. security. But the Israeli Government has flatly refused to comply with these demands.

The dimension of the scandal ahs also been indicated by the fact that the sponsors of a proposal in the U.S. Senate to increase the already huge American financial aid to Tel Aviv, Senators Daniel Inouye and Bob Kasten, have had to withdraw it. Their suggested amendment to a bill on aid to Israel, planned to total 3.76 billion dollars in 1986, provided for more than halving the lending rate for all U.S. loans granted to Israel. According to expert estimates submitted to the Senate, this would cost the American taxpayer an extra 3.9 billion dollars. The UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL remarked that even debating the amendment in the Senate in those conditions would be inappropriate.

U.S. EMPLOYEES REQUIRED TO TAKE LIE DETECTOR TESTS

LD121354 Moscow TASS in English 1331 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, December 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports:

Tens of thousands of employees of U.S. governmental agencies will now be periodically subjected to humiliating loyalty checks with the help of lie detectors. As the White House announced on Wednesday, President Reagan has signed a secret directive of the National Security Council on this score.

A personal spokesman for the head of the administration said that arrangements for loyalty checks are already being made.

White House officials refused to reveal how many persons will be covered by such checks. But, according to the deputy of the White House press secretary, even Cabinet members will have to answer questions before lie detectors. Lie detectors, Larry Speakes, White House press secretary also stressed, are only one of the many methods to be used for such investigations.

High on the list for loyalty checks, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES says, are staff members of the State Department, approximately four thousand of them.

A spokesman for the state department staff has already protested against these plans. Commenting on the new directive signed by Reagan, the television company CBS quotes Secretary of S ate Shultz as saying that he would rather resign than allow himself to be strapped in front of a lie detector.

White House representatives assure that the present campaign would make struggle against anti-U.S. espionage more effective. It is clear, however, that the measures taken under the National Security Council's directive, will only intensify the atmosphere of spy mania in the USA. This, in turn, will create a suitable background for the operation of various special services, the FBI in particular, engaged in the notorious "witch hunt".

U.S. EXPERIMENTS COMPARED WITH NAZI 'ATROCITIES'

LD122339 Moscow TASS in English 2314 GMT 12 Dec 85

["Attacking the Personality" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 12 TASS -- Respect for the personality is decisive to the nature of the relationships between the state and the citizen under socialism. It is formalized legally in the Soviet Constitution, Soviet scientist Marat Vartanyan, a corresponding member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, has told TASS.

Regrettably, the scientist stressed, the USA has accumulated a different, sad experience of attacking the psychology and mentality of people so as to deny them the ability to act of their free will and to effectively control them. A number of such "scientific projects," among them Artichoke and Blue Bird, are public knowledge.

According to press reports, "scientific" research in 83 institutions, such as hospitals and prisons, and also in 154 colleges and universities was secretly funded in the USA. The CIA extensively cooperated in that field with the Pentagon, which also has an interest in the findings of inhuman experiments.

"Killers of human mentality in white overalls staged experiments on healthy unsuspecting people. Thsy studied not medicines but psychotomimetic substances unbalancing human mentality."

Experiments were often recorded by secret cameras, which must have been another treacherous condition of horrendous "research," Vartanyan continued. Atrocities perpetrated in the USA are akin to what the Nazis did to prisoners of war during the Second World War. The very fact of the use of such substances on healthy people constitutes an immense legal, moral and ethical problem. Moreover, they are an immense human tragedy. What they amount to are grave disorders in man's mentality, in his ability to think, the scientist said.

The warning of great scientists that man can use atomic energy for good or for self-determination, I think, applies in full to present-day psychopharmacology. Having provided marvellous possibilities to treat people during the past decades, it has also produced substances with a dramatic effect on human behaviour. Those substances, if used by unscrupulous people, are an incomparable evil. The USA has demonstrated this to the whole world in full measure. The latest example was the abduction of Soviet diplomat Vitaliy Yurchenko: psychotropic chemicals were used on him to make him betray his homeland.

The eternal mottos of the physician -- humanity, kindness and generosity -- are acquiring a special meaning nowadays, the scientist said. Those who seek to preserve human health and life cannot participate in inhuman experimentation on healthy people to study any substances dangerous to man, be they psycho- or neurotropic, chemical, toxic or biological control methods. Small wonder that this question was discussed in the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. This problem of extreme importance today causes worry among medical people, Vartanyan stressed.

ASTEC OFFICIALS COMMENT ON CONCLUSION OF SESSION

LD121107 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1703 GMT 11 Nov 85

[Yu. Rostov report from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between representatives of UN associations in the USSR and the United States on topical problems of international relations has ended in Moscow. [Video shows a group of at least 20 people seated around a table with Arbatov presiding; close-up of participants Scranton and Beecher]

Regional conflicts; support for peoples of Nicaragua and Angola, or Somozists and RSA proteges; human rights; the viewpoint of inhabitants of a New York ghetto or inhabitants of a respectable area of Los Angeles -- these were questions to which a common approach was not found at the meeting. This is not surprising. There are people of various convictions in the U.S. delegation. In the past many of them occupied high posts in the state apparatus. Far from all U.S. participants in the discussions can be called friends of the Soviet Union. And the fact that a serious and businesslike atmosphere was created at the meeting and that the exchange of views was acknowledged to be useful, is that much more significant. The main result of the meeting is not only the acknowledgement of the need for political dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States, but also the participants' call for real steps to be undertaken to reduce the threat of war.

[Begin William Scranton recording in English with superimposed translation] First and foremost we discussed the results of the talks in Geneva between the leaders of our countries. These talks have undoubtedly become an event of great significance. [end recording]

Scranton, a World War II veteran, stressed that he remembers what sacrifices were borne 40 years ago by the peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States, first and foremost, the Soviet people. Now there is a threat of war, many times more destructive. Therefore, Scranton says, like the overwhelming majority of U.S. people I hope that after Geneva accords on topical questions of the present will become possible between the Soviet Union and the United States.

[Begin Academician Georgiy Arbatov recording] We have entered a period in which what was agreed in Geneva must be translated into real deeds and actually, events, the real results, the genuine results, the most important results of Geneva will be determined by how much all of this is incorporated in tangible and material results, the genuine results. In that now lies the point of our policy and, strictly speaking in a very modest way, such discussions as this are also devoted to resolving that task. [end recording]

## ASTEC Cochairmen Interviewed

LD121319 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The annual meeting of members of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, ASTEC, ended in Moscow today. In recent years the abbreviation ASTEC has not frequently been used in the lexicon of international life. We were not to blame for the fact that this key organization in the structure of Soviet-U.S. trade and economic relations has not been functioning normally. The summit meeting in Geneva, however, gave new impetus to ASTEC's activity.

In the resolution adopted today at the final session, the ASTEC members spoke in favor of a large-scale development of business cooperation between the two countries and demanded the granting of most-favored nation status to the USSR in trade and the granting of export credits.

Assessing the prospects of the development of Soviet-U.S. business relations Dwayne Andreas, cochairman of ASTEC from the United States, said:

[Begin recording] [Andreas in English with superimposed Russian translation] In order that trade should develop successfully, it is also necessary to create a good political climate. I think that, thanks to the efforts of General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan, such a feeling of confidence has now appeared in the United States. It grew stronger during yesterday's dinner in the Kremlin. The spirit of Geneva has become like a breath of fresh air for all our activity. I feel very optimistic. We expect that the obstacles to Soviet-U.S. trade will be gradually eliminated.

[Unidentified correspondent] Vladimir Nikolayevich Sushkov, as cochairman of the Soviet side, could you briefly sum up the results of the ASTEC session which has just ended?

[Sushkov] Of course I think that this session of ASTEC took place at a very high level, a practical level, I would say. A very large U.S. delegation was present, I would say a record one, including a government delegation led by U.S. Trade Secretary Baldrige. Important resolutions were adopted. I think I should also say that we took a specific decision, a very important one: In 1986 a very big exhibition is to be held in Moscow, of U.S. construction industry technology. Much interest in this will be shown by our industry.

[Correspondent] Overall, we will hope for an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations.

[Sushkov] Without a doubt. [end recording]

## Commercial Talks Planned

LD121010 Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 11 TASS -- The Soviet Union favours an active development of new forms of trade-economic and scientific-technological cooperation with the Western countries, including with the United States, a TASS correspondent was told by Petr Mikheyev, chief of the Main Administration for the Import of Machinery and Equipment From the Capitalist Countries of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade. He took part in a discussion on new approaches to the market, which was opened here today with the framework of the ASTEC meeting.

The discussion centered on compensation agreements, industrial cooperation and projects to build industrial plants on the turnkey basis. It was stressed that it takes efforts of both sides for a successful introduction of new forms of business cooperation into practice, Petr Mikheyev pointed out.

In the course of the ASTEC conference discussions were also held on other trends of U.S.-Soviet business cooperation, which are of mutual interest. Views were exchanged on questions pertaining to the storage, processing and transportation of farm produce, production of consumer goods, on petrochemistry.

The Soviet and American participants in the discussions familiarized each other with their export potentialities and import requirements. A number of specific projects of bilateral cooperation has been put forward. Now Soviet organisations and American companies concerned will carry on a discussion of these projects at commercial talks.

## WEINBERGER MEETS WITH FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER

LD102300 Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, December 10 TASS -- Talks have been held here between Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defence, and Paul Quiles, France's defence minister, who arrived on a visit in Washington. This is his first visit to the United States since his appointment as defence minister in September.

Officially, as a spokesman for the administration said, the French minister's visit and his talks with Weinberger are in the character of familiarization and not aimed at "concluding any agreements". Yet, as follows from the statement by that official, the administration is using the visit for intensifying cooperation with France in the military field. Thus Weinberger and Quiles "have exchanged views" on a broad range of military issues, including those concerning the conclusion of a contract with a French company for the production and supply of communication equipment for the U.S. Army and creation of a new fighter aircraft by France.

But main attention at the meeting, a spokesman for the administration said, was devoted to a discussion of President Reagan's "Strategic Defence Initiative". Thus in particular, the U.S. secretary of defence has explained his colleague why President Reagan attaches so much significance to that programme.

France is known to have officially refused to participate in the "star wars" programme directed at militarizing outer space. Yet Washington clearly does not lose hope to draw Paris into the implementation of its dangerous designs. The American press stresses in that connection the fact that at his talks with French defence minister, Caspar Weinberger specially touched upon the agreement reached with Britain last week on the participation of that country's companies in the effort to implement that Strategic Defence Initiative.

## PRIMAKOV ON TIES WITH JAPAN SHEVARDNADZE VISIT

OW130923 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec 13 KYODO -- A "psychological breakthrough' created in the Geneva superpower summit would produce positive results in future relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, a visiting Soviet official said Friday. Yevgeniy Primakov, head of Moscow's World Economics and International Relations Institute, told a Japan National Press Club press conference, however, that it is only the first step.

"It is unrealistic to think an agreement on the strategic balance of weapons could have been signed in Geneva," said Primakov, one of top advisers who accompanied Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to the November summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Speaking about the Afghan issue, Primakov said the Soviet Union wanted to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan through a political settlement and Gorbachev repeated this in Geneva. But he said the condition for Soviet withdrawal is an end to intervention in the domestic affairs of another country. He named the U.S. as the greatest obstacle to a settlement of the issue. Primakov said the U.S. is providing weapons to anti-government guerrillas in Afghanistan.

On Soviet relations with Israel, Primakov said there have been no secret negotiations between the two countries for restoration of ties and the only contact made recently was at a reception in Paris where the Soviet and Israeli ambassadors talked with each other.

Primakov said he was mistakenly quoted by KYODO News Service in an interview earlier this week as indicating the Soviet Union does not think total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories is a precondition for reopening of diplomatic ties with Israel. Primakov said the Soviet Union has been proposing a package for peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute with participation of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and if Israel accepted this proposal it would be a positive step for improving ties between the Soviet Union and Israel.

Speaking about the scheduled visit to Japan January 15-19 by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Primakov said the foreign minister will do his best to improve relations between the two countries by taking serious consideration of various issues.

Primakov did not dwell on his country's position regarding the four northern islands off Hokkaido seized as occupied by the Soviets since the end of World War Two.

He said the ties between the Soviet Union and Japan are increasingly important for the two neighboring countries and efforts to improve them must be made by both sides.

Primakov indicated nothing concrete has been discussed about the possibility of an exchange of visits by Gorbachev and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

## U.S., JAPAN FAIL TO AGREE ON TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE

LD121509 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0828 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, 12 Dec (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Sergey Logachev reports:

They disagreed on the price -- that is how one could describe the situation which has come about in the area of Japanese-U.S. exchange of military technology. According to a report by the KYODO TSUSHIN agency, talks on the transfer to the Pentagon of technology developed in Japan for targeting missiles have been unexpectedly deadlocked. The reason is extremely prosaic: the parties have purely and simply failed to reach agreement on how much the United States should pay for the Japanese technical novelty.

Reports have appeared more than once in the local press to the effect that all the details of this deal have supposedly been agreed, and that it only remains for Tokyo and Washington to strike a bargain, so to speak, and sign the appropriate documents. But the pressmen were too hasty. The Pentagon categorically refused to lay out the Y10 billion asked by the Japanese Government for the missile technology, declaring that it is not worth that much. The U.S. Administration, says KYODO TSUSHIN, is openly reproaching Tokyo for "ingratitude and selfishness," recalling the contribution of the U.S. military-industrial complex to the restoration and build-up of capacity of the Japanese military industry. The offended Japanese have stated in reply that they will not yield a single yen.

In the view of local observers, the conflict which has arisen between Japan and the United States is casting a shadow on their "alliance" relations and may become the cause of new friction between the two countries. However, in the final analysis, few people are in doubt that the transatlantic military will get its hands on the Japanese technical achievements of interest, which it intends to use to create the latest weapons systems. The way to this was opened by the Japanese Government itself which agreed to exclude the United States from its policy of banning weapons exports.

U.S. 'Pressure'

OW121415 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1146 GMT 12 Dec 85

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valeriy Korzin]

[Text] The United States is now striving for Japan to join the "star wars" program. After Britain signed an agreement to take part in this program, the White House has sharply intensified pressure on other countries, primarily Japan.

Generally, this is understandable. The Pentagon generals are interested in the newest technology developed by Japanese scientists and engineers. Pressure on its overseas ally is proceeding literally in all directions. Should the Nakasone government refuse to conclude an agreement on "star wars," Washington is threatening to create difficulties for Japanese companies operating in the United States.

For the time being, the secrets of Japanese laboratories remain inaccessible to the U.S. sponsors of "star wars." Many newspapers reported that everything had been decided and that the United States had the newest missile guidance technology developed in Japan in the bag, as one might say. However, nothing turned out to be as simple as that. Wishes had been passed off as reality. We have already said more than once that the arms race is directly connected with making money, with obtaining profit. The desire to gain big profits often turns out to be a determining factor. So it turned out this time as well. The Japanese Government demand Y10 billion for the missile technology.

The KYODO news agency wrote that the U.S. Administration is openly reproaching its friend and ally for its ingratitude and self-interest, and is reminding it of the contribution of the U.S. industrial complex in restoring and building up the Japanese military industry.

The Japanese are, as always, smiling and nodding their heads in agreements, but at the same time are saying they will not give in for anything -- Y10 billion and not a yen less.

An argument is an argument, but one can be sure that this issue will ultimately be settled. The strategic interests of the two countries coincide completely. The Nakasone government has repeatedly proven that it is prepared to support U.S. aggressive aspirations.

U.S. MILITARY'S 'SEIZURE' OF OKINAWA CONDEMNED

LD110818 Moscow TASS in English 0741 GMT 11 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, December 11 TASS -- The seizure of vast areas on the Japanese island of Okinawa by U.S. Armed Forces runs counter to the elementary norms of international law. This has been stated during a debate in the lower house of the country's parliament by deputy-Communist Kamejiro Senaga. He emphasized that international law unequivocally bans even occupation armies from seizing lands in foreign countries. Meanwhile the U.S. Armed Forces after the Second World War have confiscated almost a quarter of the territory of Okinawa, turning it into one of the Pentagon's main staging areas in the Pacific Ocean. The deputy-Communist strongly condemned the stand of Tokyo which has officially blessed the seizure of a considerable part of the island's teritory by Washington.

JOURNAL NOTES JAPAN'S LINKS WITH AFGHAN 'BANDITS'

LD111755 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 11 TASS -- Contacts between Japanese "ultras" and Afghan bandits are broadening, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA writes today. According to the literary weekly, specialists from the so-called Japanese Youth Association visited camps on the border with Afghanistan where the bandits receive professional training, and taught them karate fighting methods. Besides, the delegation head handed over to the bandit formation various equipment, including portable radio transmitters, photo cameras etc.

"But what the 'youth association' militants are doing is child's play compared with the conduct of Japanese Government members," LITERATURNAYA GAZETA observes. "When in Pakistan, they invariably visit bases of Afghan counter-revolution, and not with empty hands. Visiting the bandits in May last year, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone came out in support of their cause and announced the allocation of six million dollars in aid. Last year alone, Islamabad received 363 billion yen, 32 billion were additionally allocated in April."

BRIEFS

TRADE TIES WITH JAPAN -- Moscow, December 9 TASS -- An agreement was signed here today between the Union of Consumer Societies of the USSR ("Tsentrosoyuz") and the Japanese "Cooptrade" on cooperation in 1986-1990. The agreement provides for expansion of reciprocal deliveries, development of the exchange of experience in organizing trade and its provision with technical facilities, specifically the use of electronic computers at trade and public services enterprises, the holding of exhibitions, meetings of specialists and seminars. The document was signed by the chairman of the USSR Tsentrosoyuz Board Mikhail Trunov and "Cooptrade" President Isao Takamura. An agreement between cooperative organizations of the two countries on trade exchange in 1986-1990 is expected to be signed in Tokyo in the near future. [Excerpts] [Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 9 Dec 85 LD]

## DRA'S DOST DEPARTS MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO GENEVA

LD121553 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1528 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, 12 Dec (TASS) -- Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, left Moscow today. He had stopped here en route to Geneva.

## GROUND FORCES CHIEF IVANOV TO VISIT INDIA

PM131034 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 85 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On a Visit to India"]

[Text] Army General Ye. F. Ivanov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of Ground Forces, will visit the Republic of India in the second half of December at the invitation of Army Chief of Staff A.S. Vaidya.

## S. ASIA BODY AIMS TO BEAT WESTERN 'BLACKMAIL'

PM111449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Own Correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov report: "Against The Monopolies' Domination"]

[Text] Dhaka -- For 2 days now the modern concrete building of the Bangladesh National Assembly has been the center of world attention.

The conference of heads of state and government of seven South Asian countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka -- has been held here on the theme of cooperation problems.

President H. Ershad of Bangladesh, chairman of the conference, officially proclaimed the creation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Its charter and declaration have been adopted. SAARC's task, as enshrined in the preamble to the charter, is to "strengthen peace, stability, friendship, and progress in the region." The association's aim, the declaration notes, is to help accelerate the process of economic and social development to increase the well-being of the South Asian peoples. Peace and security are necessary preconditions for implementing these goals, the document stresses.

Commenting on the results of the Dhaka conference, which is now over, THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER writes: "The West's increasing protectionism toward the developing countries is tantamount to robbery. Whereas in the past Western states only prevented our agricultural goods from gaining access to their markets, now they are doing the same to our industrial goods and stifling our nascent industry." The association's emergence was an act of protest against trade blackmail from the imperialist monopolies. The association is designed to be an important instrument for safeguarding the interests of the region's countries.

## 'REPRESSION' OF PAKISTANI PUSHTUNS CONTINUES

PM111222 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Dec 85 Second Edition p 3

[Unnamed own correspondent dispatch: "Barbaric Action"]

[Text] Kabul, 10 Dec -- Pakistani regular troops backed by tanks and artillery are continuing to combat the free Pushtun tribes in the Khyber Pass region. The butchers have blocked the territory of this zone. Helicopter, heavy artillery, and tank fire has destroyed and wiped out many population centers. Even the Mosques of the Afridi and Shinwari tribes were shelled. Supplies of foodstuffs and prime necessities have been stopped. The population has been condemned to starve.

The barbaric action against the Pushtun tribes has aroused anger and indignation among the population. The inhabitants of a number of regions, leaving their homes, have fled to the mountains and joined the tribes. The leaders and chiefs of other Pushtun tribes have sided with the fighting Afridi and Shinwari. They have also joined in the armed struggle against the Pakistani military.

The revolutionary Afghan people have sharply condemned the Pakistani authorities' aggressive actions. A protest rally against the Pakistani military's aggression in the Khyber Zone organized by the union of free tribe traders was held in Kabul. They stated their total support for the just struggle of the Afridi and Shinwari.

The wave of reprisals against the Pushtun tribes was started by Islamabad in response to their refusal to let gangs of the Afghan counterrevolutionary rabble pass through their territory. The DRA government is profoundly alarmed at the growing concentration of Pakistani troops near the Afghan-Pakistani border.

## 3 DRA ANTISTATE 'CRIMINALS' SENTENCED TO DEATH

LD121432 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 12 TASS -- The Special Revolutionary Court of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has held an open meeting here in the case of three criminals. They are members of a terroristic group affiliated with the counterrevolutionary "Jamiyatle Islami" organisation. The criminals are charged with having killed teacher Abdul Rashind and having conducted anti-state and subversive activities. It is noted that pistols, explosives, toxic chemicals, documents were confiscated from the bandits on their arrest, testifying to their links with the counter-revolutionaries.

It is reported by the BAKHTAR News Agency, all three were sentenced by the court to a death penalty. The ruling will be executed after it is endorsed by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

## RECENT DRA BOMBINGS DUE TO U.S. 'DISAGREEMENT'

LD122155 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Commentary by journalist Vladimir Fadeyev]

[Text] The Afghan agency, BAKHTAR, reports that counterrevolutionary elements have carried out another bloody crime in Kabul. They succeeded in producing an explosion next to Kabul airport's weather station.

A bomb was also set off in an administrative and training section of Kabul Polytechnical Institute. Both incidents produced casualties.

Journalist Vladimir Fadeyev comments on these events:

When explosions are heard in school buildings, cinemas, bazaars, and even in mosques in Kabul and other Afghan towns, Afghans usually remark: It's the dushmans again. Whenever will it end?

Behind this laconic, almost commonplace utterance, lies peoples' attitude to the constant threat of terror, and their weariness of the bandits' senseless brutality, whose victims are usually totally innocent people.

I had occasion to witness a similar criminal act last year in the Kabul airport building. An infernal device went off while passengers were checking in for the next departure. Women and children were among the dead.

I saw the results of a blast last year again, in a mosque on the grounds of the Kabul Polytechnical Institute. There were casualties among those arriving for evening prayers.

One wonders what such varied people were guilty of in the eyes of those whom the West grandly dubs freedom fighters or representatives of the patriotic resistance. Why do explosions continue in towns whose population is engaged in peaceful work, and thinking of nothing beyond peace and tranquility for themselves and their children? Why do shots ring out from round corners?

I remind you that the revolution put an end to the U.S. ruling circles' plans to turn Afghanistan into a region of its own military-strategic interests. Herein lie the root of Washington's fundamental disagreement with both the DRA's political course and the composition of that country's present government -- the legitimate government, I would add. If there was no success in implementing these plans, those selfish interests were not buried. They remained. With the aid of political and diplomatic ploys, these interests were lent the guise of appropriate action, termed aid to the patriotic Afghan resistance.

We will now dwell on the scale or type of this aid. It increases with every passing year, and has long since ceased to be a secret to the world public.

In connection with the latest barbaric deeds in Kabul, I would like to remind you that the dushmans, whose actions are, as usual, paid for in U.S. dollars, are anything but patriots and freedom fighters. They are murderers who only excel in cruelty and vandalism against their own people. The people -- tired of senseless killing and the dushman terror -- ask: When will this end? There is neither fear nor panic in this question, but the tension of the lives of people obliged to combine their peaceful, daily work with the constant need to defend it against the foe.

This question is directed at those continuing to aggravate the problem surrounding Afghanistan by rendering military aid and financial backing to the Afghan peoples' traitors.

KARMAL DISCUSSES POSSIBLE AFGHAN SETTLEMENT

PM121506 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 5, 6-12 Dec 85 (Signed to press 5 Dec 85) p 8

["Topical interview," reprinted "with abridgments" from Kabul NEW TIMES, with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, by M.H. Sayed, chief editor of the Pakistani newspaper THE MUSLIM --no date or place given; first two paragraphs are a ZA RUBEZHOM introduction: "Babrak Karmal: 'The Tense Situation Around Afghanistan is the Result of Impudent Interference by the Reaction, and Primarily by U.S. Imperialism'"]

[Text] "...the Soviet Union consistently advocates a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan," comrade M.S. Gorbachev said addressing the USSR Supreme Soviet session. "We advocate that friendly neighboring Afghanistan should be an independent nonaligned state, and that a system of guaranteed noninterference in Afghanistan's affairs be established." This approach is fully shared by the PDPA and Afghanistan's revolutionary council.

The interview with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, by M.H. Sayed, chief editor of the Pakistani newspaper THE MUSLIM, which is published below with certain abridgments, presents an objective picture of the actual state of affairs concerning the situation around Afghanistan, against which the United States has launched an undeclared war and in which it is constantly expanding. In the last few years alone, Washington has appropriated more than 1.5 billion dollars for this purpose.

Question: The next round of talks on Afghanistan (Geneva-6), due to be held in December this year, is generating enormous interest all over the world. [ZA RUBEZHOM] editorial note: These are the indirect talks between the DRA and Pakistan, conducted through a representative of the UN secretary general]. What specific steps, in your opinion, must be taken by both sides to overcome the existing deadlock in the talks?

Answer: First and foremost, I would like to say that, on the basis of agreement that has been reached, the sides have pledged not to disclose details of the issues being discussed at the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Consequently, I shall be able to answer your question only along general lines. First, it must be noted that the so-called"Afghan question" does not exist, and that the talks are on questions concerning the situation around Afghanistan. In the meantime, the fundamental and main obstacle is the stance of the Pakistani authorities, which are striving to avoid direct talks by using farfetched excuses. We hold the view that the Pakistani side must demonstrate a desire for direct talks with a view to properly discussing the remaining issues and finding a way to their solution.

Criterion of sincerity

In our view, there was no deadlock at the fifth round of the talks, although it can be said that only relative progress was achieved at that stage. The talks have now entered a complex stage, demanding a cautious approach. And even if substantial success has not yet been achieved, this should not necessarily be perceived as someting unnatural.

As far as our side is concerned, we will again apply maximum effort to reach agreement. But if the opposite side does not demonstrate sincerity and political independence, we cannot be held responsible for this.

There have been many examples in the practice of interstate relations when sides have sat around the negotiating table without officially recognizing one another. It is perfectly obvious that direct talks are more effective, take less time, and reduce the chances of misunderstanding. This is precisely why we insist on holding direct talks. Furthermore, the good will mission of the UN secretary general's representative was from the very beginning aimed at laying foundations for the holding of direct talks between the sides. The progress that has been achieved so far through the indirect talks is the result of Afghanistan's flexible stance.

Question: Why is your side unwilling to set a definite timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan?

Answer: The stance of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on this question is perfectly clear. Is there any need to say that the request to the Soviet Union to bring in its limited contingent of servicemen was the result of armed interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs? It is this interference that is the basic reason for the present tense situation around our country. The DRA government has repeatedly declared that, when the interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs cease, and guarantees are given regarding its nonresumption, the DRA Government will begin talks with the USSR Government on the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet forces.

Question: Some people in Pakistan think that a settlement at this stage is unwanted by your government, since it lacks support among the masses. What is your opinion?

Answer: Who do you have in mind when you speak of "some people?" As far as we know, the majority of Pakistanis are in support of a political settlement of questions by means of direct talks, being confident in the DRA's sincerity.

On the other hand, it must be pointed out that the governments of Pakistan, the United States, China, and their allies are hindering the political settlement by continuing and stepping up interference in the DRA's internal affairs. The Pakistani authorities are not displaying any readiness for a speedy settlement of the situation in their desire to obtain enormous financial and military aid (from the United States).

The DRA, on the contrary, is sparing no efforts to acheive a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. The Afghan side's 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981 statements proposed specific steps aimed at the political solution of questions, and put forward the appropriate proposals with a view to facilitating the talks process.

Speaking about popular support for the authorities [valst], it must be noted that the PDPA, which expresses the interests of the absolute majority of Afghans, enjoyed sufficient popularity among the people even before the revolution. During the monarchy regime's rule, the PDPA had its representatives in the country's parliament, who spoke in defense of the people's rights.

Afghanistan is a democratic, people's, and peace-loving state. The Loya Jirga (the supreme assembly of representatives of Afghanistan's people) and the Supreme Jirga of border tribes recently confirmed that all tribes and ethnic minorities and all strata of society approve and support the domestic and foreign policy of the PDPA and the DRA government. The free and democratic elections for local organs of state power, without parallel in the country's history, also confirm the people's [narodnyy] nature of our rule [pravleniye].

Question: The current opinion is that your side's stance at the talks has toughened. What would you say in this connection?

Answer: As far as we are concerned, we have always -- both in words and in deeds -- advocated and do advocate a political solution. But the other side is obstructing the achievement of settlement under various pretexts. Our armed forces have not committed any acts of aggression against anyone, but they are not allowing and will not allow others to retake acts of aggression against the DRA.

Facts clearly confirm that it is Pakistan's armed forces that have repeatedly violated and are continuing to violate the DRA's borders.

Pakistan's military authorities, acting contrary to the Pakistani people's will, are constantly whipping up tension in relations between our countries. But we are absolutely convinced that, sooner or later, the Pakistani administration will have to yield to the fraternal Pakistani people's demand on the question of normalizing relations with the DRA.

Question: How do you perceive Iran's role in the "Afghan question?" After all, Iran is against an American presence in the region....

Answer: Unfortunately, Iran has hitherto failed to show any readiness to participate in the Geneva talks, having unconditionally rejected them. As regards the second part of your question, it is necessary to note that the U.S. military presence in our region, thousands of kilometers away from American shores for the purpose of imposing its domination on peoples, is indeed the basic source of tension in the region and in the world as a whole.

The Compatriots are Returning Home

Question: According to official Pakistani sources, the stream of refugees from your country to Pakistan amounted to 20,000 persons in the last 2 months. Can this be explained by the expansion of military operations in Paktia province and particularly in the vicinity of the city of Khowst; do you not think that the Afghan insurgents are now better armed and that this is leaving its mark on the nature of military operations?

Answer: Experience shows that whenever our people's enemies -- I mean the bandits being sent in from abroad -- suffer a shameful defeat by our country's armed forces, the official propaganda in Pakistan and other organizers of the undeclared war makes a lot of artificial noise in order to, first, cover up the defeat of its myrmidons and, second, to discredit the heroic actions by our armed forces. In the course of operations to comb out localities in the vicinity of the city of Khowst, crushing blows were dealt against Pakistani subunits and bandits sent in from Pakistan over a large area. The organizers of the undeclared war against the DRA, and the United States in particular, who are engaged in the direct leadership of this war, are more and more generous each day in supplying the counterrevolutionary rabble entrenched in Pakistan with increasingly sophisticated weapons.

As regards the rumors about the growing numbers of so-called "emigrants," I feel it necessary to declare that this is just another fabrication by imperialist propaganda, which constantly resorts to such methods to cause anxiety among Afghans, confuse them, and intimidate them. Figures and facts indicate the opposite. Having learned about the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium decree on a universal amnesty, the deceived Afghans are returning home to their revolutionary country. This process is of a continuous nature.

The deceived Afghans are returning home because, first, they want to put an end to their degrading position as refugees vegetating in camps (on Pakistani territory) and, second, they desire to correct the error they have committed and to play an active part in the building of strong and flourishing Agfhanistan. You know that Pakistan's military regime receives enormous subsidies as a result of deliberately exaggerating the numbers of duped Afghans. I think that false propaganda is no longer able to confuse the Afghans and only goes to discredit Pakistan's military regime.

Despite Hostile Propaganda

Question: Is it fair to doubt the Pakistani authorities' sincerity regarding the solution of the "Afghan question," bearing in mind the fact that Pakistan embarked on political talks despite objections by its best friends?

Answer: We judge the Pakistani authorities; sincerity by their deeds. As regards the objections by Pakistan's "best friends," it has to be said that the Islamabad government should act on the basis of its own people's best interests.

Direct talks are the best option for solving the question concerning the situation around Afghanistan. Both countries' peoples would welcome such talks. Today the sides can prove their sincerity only in the course of direct talks.

We consider that the attainment of political agreement is possible. This would be particularly helped by a demonstration of good will and sincerity. As far as we are concerned, I would like to assure the Pakistani people once again that we advocate normalization and the development of friendly relations with Pakistan and other neighboring countries on the basis of the principles of noninterference in one another's internal affairs and respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Question: How much of the events in December 1979 can be attributed to external factors?

Answer: If by "December events" you mean the prompt military assistance by the Soviet side, it must be noted that it was rendered at the request of the DRA's legitimate government. I want to emphasize once more that, thanks to this fraternal assistance by our people's great and traditional friend, it has become possible to uphold revolutionary Afghanistan's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty and to thwart the dangerous aggressive and separatist schemes of our motherland's enemies. Had it not been for this assistance, the Afghan revolution would have been doomed.

The presence of the Soviet limited contingent on our territory has not threatened and does not threaten a single country. The tense situation around Afghanistan is a result of impudent interference by the reaction, primarily by U.S. imperialism. There are no other reasons for tension.

## BULGARIA'S MLADENOV MEETS WITH SHEVARDNADZE

LD121231 Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 12 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, and Petur Mladenov, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, foreign minister of Bulgaria, began talks here today.

Petur Mladenov arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the Soviet Government for an official friendship visit.

### Lays Wreaths at Monuments

LD121617 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Video report from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Petur Mladenov laid a wreath today at the Vladimir Ilyich Mausoleum. He honored the memory of the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet State.

A wreath was also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Wall. Comrade Mladenov paid tribute to Soviet servicemen, who fell in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

The Bulgarian foreign minister laid a wreath at the monument to Georgi Dimitrov, eminent figure of the Bulgarian and international workers' movement.

## NIKONOV'S ACTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA REPORTED

PM121527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Dec 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings in Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Dec -- A meeting was held here, 10 December between V.P. Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is here on a friendly visit, and B. Srebric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council and chairman of the Yugoslav section of the Yugoslav-Soviet intergovernmental committee on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. During the talk, which took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere, certain questions of the further development of economic cooperation between the two countries were touched on.

The Soviet quest visited the Beograd agro-industrial complex, which has business relations with enterprises of the USSR agro-industrial complex. At present an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation concluded between the Beograd complex and the Kuban agro-industrial complex (Krasnodar Kray) is being fulfilled successfully.

He also visited the corn institute at Zemunsko-Polje, which maintains permanent contacts with scientific research centers in Georgia, Moldavia, and the Ukraine, and familiarized himself with the work of the Beograd agro-industrial complex' trade center in New Belgrade and a plant which produces fruit juices and nonalcoholic drinks.

During the meetings and conversations V.P. Nikonov spoke of the active preparations for the 27th CPSU Congress, the nationwide discussion of the precongress documents which has been widely launched, progress in implementing the concept of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development, and measures to improve the activity of the agro-industrial complex with a view to resolving the USSR Food Program tasks.

## ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER OLTEANU TOURS LENINGRAD

PM131110 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 85 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "On Tour of the Country"]

[Text] Colonel General C. Olteanu, member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who is on an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government, departed on a tour of the country 11 December.

At Sheremetyevo Airport the Romanian guest was seen off by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces; Colonel General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, USSR deputy defense minister; and generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

T. Dudas, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Soviet Union, was among the send-off party.

The state flags of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the USSR were flying at the airport, and the two countries' national anthems were played.

Col Gen C. Olteanu, minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received the report of the commander of the honor guard and reviewed the formation of Soviet servicemen.

During the tour of the country the minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania will be accompanied by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces.

On the same day Col Gen C. Olteanu arrived in Leningrad. At Pulkovo Airport he was welcomed by Colonel General B.V. Snetkov, commander of the Leningrad Military District, and other Soviet generals and officers.

The Romanian guest laid flowers at the Monument to Leningrad's heroic defenders in victory square. Col Gen C. Olteanu called on U.F. Solovyev, first secretary of the Leningrad CPSU Obkom, toured the V.I. Lenin memorial museum at the Smolnyy, visited the Marshal of the Soviet Union A.A. Grechko Naval Academy, and saw the sights of the city on the Neva.

The Leningrad Military District commander gave a luncheon in honor of the distinguished guest.

## CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE TO POLAND COMPLETED

LD121559 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Summary] The construction of the Kobryn-Brest-Warsaw gas pipeline has come to an end. Two sections of the line constructed toward each other on Soviet and Polish soil have been welded together. Siberian gas is to pass along the line to provide raw material for enterprises of Poland's chemical industry and to provide heat for housing. At the same time builders of the Polish firm Energopol laid branches from the main gas pipeline along which natural gas will pass to many populated areas of the Kamenets Rayon of Brest Oblast. A meeting of Soviet-Polish friendship has taken place in connection with completion of the gas pipeline.

## ROMANIA, CSSR COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTS SUMMIT STANCE

LD121925 Moscow TASS in English 1831 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Bucharest, December 12 TASS -- Romania and Czechoslovakia fully support the constructive stand of the USSR at the Soviet-American summit in Geneva, the stand which was in accord with the spirit of the statement adopted by the Sofia meeting of the Warsaw Treaty member countries, a communique released here today on the results of the working visit of Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, says. The sides stress that the Geneva meeting is the beginning of a dialogue aimed at achieving change for the better in international relations.

Romania and Czechoslovakia, the communique says, believe that the very fact of the Geneva meeting and the adoption of a joint statement constituted an important event in the present-day especially dangerous international situation. They welcome the fact that the USSR and the USA reached accord on the inadmissibility of nuclear war, in which there can be no winner, and agreed that neither side should seek military superiority. They also welcome incipient prospects for the continuation of talks on nuclear and space weapons.

Nicolae Ceausescu and Gustav Husak called for an early achievement of mutually acceptable accords on ending the arms race on earth, on preventing its spread into space, on disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, and on strengthening peace and international security. The leaders of the two countries also called for suspending for the entire duration of the talks the production, deployment and tests of nuclear weapons, or any actions aimed at the militarization of space, and also for freezing and reducing military spending. Support was voiced for the initiatives aimed at establishing nuclear-free zones in the Balkans and in Nordic Europe, a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe, and also for the idea to establish a chemical weapons-free zone in central Europe.

The sides believe, the document says furthermore, that it is necessary to invigorate the activities of different international agencies and conferences concerned with questions of disarmament, cooperation and European and world peace and security, and to do everything possible for the completion with the best possible results of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and for progress at the Vienna talks and at the Geneva disarmament conference.

It was stressed in the course of the talks that to ensure European and world peace, it is especially necessary to respect territorial and political realities in Europe and to put an end to all revanchist tendencies aimed at a revision of borders between European states.

The sides called for the further strengthening of the unity of the international communist and working class movement, for broader relations with communist, workers and social democratic parties and national liberation movements with a view to the mobilization of the broadest socio-political forces and of the mass of the population to struggle for disarmament, peace, national independence, cooperation and social progress. The solidarity of the Romanian and Czechoslovak communist parties and of Romania and Czechoslovakia with the struggle waged by the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for social and national liberation, for stronger independence and against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism was reiterated.

In the course of the visit Nicolae Ceausescu and Gustav Husak signed a program for the development of economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries to the year 2000 and reiterated the desire of both sides vigorously to expand multilateral economic, scientific and technological cooperation in the spirit of the resolutions passed by the CMEA member countries' summit.

## FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VISITS MOSCOW

Received by Voss

LD121821 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow December 12 TASS -- The development of parliamentary contacts between the USSR and France is contributing to stronger relations between the two countries, to broader friendship and mutual understanding between their peoples, and to the cause of European and world peace, Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the Soviet parliament, stated in the Kremlin today as he welcomed Louis Mermaz, president of the National Assembly of France, paying an official visit to Moscow at the invitation of the chairmen of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Avgust Voss noted with satisfaction the effective development of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the National Assembly of France and stressed that exchanges of visits by parliamentarians and delegations of foreign affairs commissions, groups of Franco-Soviet friendship and the Soviet-French section of the USSR parliamentary group were being carried out on a regular basis.

Avgust Voss said that the visit of the president of the National Assembly of France to Moscow was another step in pursuit of the accords reached during the recent visit of Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to France.

Louis Mermaz said: "I am glad to have arrived in your country at a time when relations between France and the Soviet Union have grown more active. We attach much importance to the visit of the Soviet leader to France and note with satisfaction that contacts and meetings during that visit are already yielding results."

Louis Mermaz also said that despite differences between their political and economic systems, France and the Soviet Union had some problems in common and should tackle them jointly without delay. These problems include, first and foremost, efforts to promote peace.

We remember, the president of the National Assembly of France continued, that we were comrades-in-arms in the Second World War and the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall today was a tribute to the memory of all those who had fought Nazism.

We highly value relations between France and the USSR, the visitor said in conclusion, and think that everything positive that has already been achieved should be promoted.

Meets With Gorbachev

LD121816 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 12 TASS -- General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Mikhail Gorbachev today received chairman of France's National Assembly Louis Mermaz, in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

During a conversation, held in a friendly, constructive atmosphere, the sides discussed a number of international problems and prospects of Soviet-French relations.

It was noted with satisfaction that relations between the USSR and France received a fresh impetus following the Soviet-French summit meeting in Paris. The Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev said, favours most extensive development of friendly ties with France.

Turning to the international situation, Mikhail Gorbachev said that the USSR did not see a more important and urgent task than that of curbing the arms race and using every opportunity to ensure a radical turn for the better in international affairs. A new thinking in foreign policy and new approaches to relations between states are needed today more than ever before. It was by this approach that the Soviet Union guided itself at the Soviet-American summit meeting.

A frank and on the whole useful discussion was initiated in Geneva on the most important questions of our time. The pivotal problem here is the problem of preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth. Some points of contact between the positions of the USSR and the USA on that fundamental problem emerged. However, the main obstacle to resolving it, the U.S. "star wars" program, remains.

The fulfillment of that program can only lead to an uncontrollable arms race in every field. The Soviet Union hopes that the American side has not yet said its last word on this matter. The role and responsibility of West European states in this context are exceptionally great.

Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that the Soviet Union's readiness to do everything within its power to resolve disarmament problems was reiterated by tangible practical steps. For instance, it was announced during the visit to France that the Soviet Union had withdrawn from combat alert on its own initiative SS-20 missiles which had been deployed additionally in the European zone and that stationary facilities for those missiles would be dismantled within the next two months. The USSR has lived up to its promise: dismantling operations have been completed.

The situation in Europe and in the world today is not quite what it was a few months previously, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed. Hopes for a possible change for the better in international relations are picking up. A mechanism which manifested itself so well during the 1970's, East-West dialogue, is again being set into motion. The Soviet Union was and remains an advocate of a broad approach to the development of this dialogue and to the utilization of its every aspect.

The peaceable goals of Soviet foreign policy were forcefully reaffirmed anew at a recent session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which approved a plan for the socio-economic development of the USSR for 1986. The constructive and forward-looking character of the domestic development of the USSR naturally stems from the major draft documents of the 27th CPSU Congress which have been published for a nationwide discussion.

Louis Mermaz spoke in favour of the further promotion of East-West dialogue and stressed that France advocated broader cooperation with the Soviet Union in the interests of strengthening peace, reducing weapons and their non-deployment in space. He conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev an oral message from French President Francois Mitterrand.

## IZVESTIYA Interviews Mermaz

PM121701 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with Louis Mermaz, speaker of the French National Assembly, by unnamed own Paris correspondent under the "IZVESTIYA Interview" rubric: "USSR-France: For the Good of Cooperation" -- first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Louis Mermaz, speaker of the French National Assembly, is making an official visit to the Soviet Union at the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' invitation. On the eve of L. Mermaz's departure IZVESTIYA's Paris correspondent asked him to talk about Soviet-French parliamentary ties and the prospects for developing relations between our countries.

Paris -- "I would first like to note that there are long-standing ties between our two countries' parliaments," L. Mermaz said, "and regular exchanges of delegations take place. In Paris last year I received a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissions, and now French parliamentarians are about to visit the Soviet Union. I attach great importance to this visit. We want to develop not only parliamentary but also mutually beneficial trade, economic -- our economies complement each other -- scientific, technical, and cultural ties between France and the Soviet Union. We are also interested in discussing questions connected with further implementing the Helsinki agreements.

Despite different standpoints on a number of questions, there is quite a lot of common ground providing a basis for dialogue, which I should like to see energetic and sincere. While respecting differences, we must develop bilateral ties in the interests of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

"The roots of the relations between our two countries go back deep into the past. There have been quite a few periods when our countries' paths have crossed. I would especially note Soviet troops' decisive contribution to defeating fascism and the heroic path traversed by the Normandie-Neman air regiment.

"Good Franco-Soviet relations have always helped strengthen peace. General de Gaulle attached great importance to friendship between our countries, and that tradition continues today. We favor developing East-West relations, and France is seeking to play an active part in that process. The Geneva meeting was of great significance inasmuch as talks between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States were held after a long gap. It is hoped that the meetings will be continued and will bring concrete results.

"The French National Assembly had the high honor of receiving CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev on 3 October 1985, and he delivered a speech there addressed to the international and French public a few weeks before the Geneva meeting. The results of the visit, which evoked great interest among the public and provided a boost to the development and deepening of bilateral ties, were received with satisfaction in France. We are certain that M.S. Gorbachev is committed to the cause of peace and is seeking to reduce tension. The task today is to ensure that all people of goodwill in the world search for ways and means of achieving peace and detente.

"In conclusion I should like to especially note on the pages of IZVESTIYA the friendly feelings the French have regarding the Soviet people. It is necessary to seek ways of giving concrete expression to that friendship and or promoting the expansion of exchange in all spheres. I am certain that our two peoples can achieve much through joint efforts."

FRENCH CONFERENCE HELD ON MILITARY RESPONSE TO SDI

LD121328 Moscow TASS in ENglish 1248 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, December 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yuriy Kopatin reports:

What France should do in the military field to respond to Washington's "star wars" programme was the subject of a closed-door "science and defence" conference held at the Palaiseau Polytechnical Institute [Parisian suburb]. The conference sponsored by the French ministry of defence was attended by war experts and scientists.

Reports which have leaked into local press say that most participants concluded that the U.S.-praised "space shield" could not guarantee security at all and that the opposite side will inevitably modernize its destructive means as an effective retaliatory measure, should such a "shield" be created.

TOLKUNOV DELEGATION MEETS WITH FRG PARLIAMENTARIANS

LD121720 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Bonn, December 12 TASS -- A two-day conference of representatives of the Soviet and West German public, dealing with prospects and problems of East-West relations, opened here today.

The meeting, sponsored by the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, which is close to the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), and the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, is being attended by Chairman of the Subcommission in the West German Bundestag on Disarmament and Arms Control Issues Egon Bahr, Chairman of the group of SPD deputies at the Bundestag Commission on Foreign Policy Karsten Voigt, Deputy Chairman of the SPD Bundestag faction Horst Ehmke, other prominent political and public figures.

A Soviet public delegation, led by Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Chairman of the USSR Committee for European Security and Cooperation Lev Tolkunov, is taking part in the conference.

The conferees highly assessed the Soviet-American summit in Geneva as a major political event in international life. The results of the talks between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, it was noted at the conference, are capable of exerting positive influence on the political and psychological climate in the present-day international relations worldwide, including in Europe, and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

"Social Democrats of the Federal Republic of Germany," Egon Bahr said in his statement, "support as concordant with their position the vitally important result of the meeting -- the accord, endorsed in the joint document, that a nuclear war should not be fought. They welcome the importance, confirmed by the Soviet and American leaders, of preventing any war between the two countries and their commitment not to seek military superiority."

The head of the Soviet delegation, speaking at the conference, drew attention to the fact that "the long-term significance of the Geneva meeting should be primarily manifested in concrete practical deeds, and depends on the readiness of the United States to act on the basis of the Geneva joint statement.

"The reaching of concrete accords in Geneva on real disarmament and, above all, on the central problems of nuclear and space armaments was hindered by the unwillingness of the U.S. leadership to give up the 'star wars' programme. The Soviet public are firmly convinced that the implementation of the programme which provides for the establishment of strike space weapons that can be used against missiles, satellites and targets on earth will further spur the arms race," Lev Tolkunov pointed out.

FRG COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW

PM121337 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 85 First Edition p 7

[TASS report: "FRG Communists in the USSR"]

[Text] A delegation of party workers of the German Communist Party [DPK] headed by (Kh. Shimek), member of the DKP Board Presidium, visited the Soviet Union 1 through 8 November at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. In addition to Moscow, the delegation visited Lipetsk Oblast, had talks at the CPSU Central Committee International Section and Lipetsk CPSU Obkom, became familiarized with the work of the Novolipetskiy Yu.V. Andropov Metallurgical Combine, and visited a number of agricultural enterprises. In Moscow the FRG Communists participated in measures devoted to the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The delegation members spoke highly of the vigorous work of CPSU party organizations and Soviet working people aimed at accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and worthily greeting the 27th CPSU Congress. The successful resolution of the tasks set by the CPSU, (Kh. Shimek) pointed out, will not only be of great significance for further improving the socialist society in the USSR but will also give strong support to all forces of peace and social progress in other countries.

FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS VISIT 2-9 DEC

PM121603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Dec 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests From Finland"]

[Text] Under the plan for contacts between the CPSU and the Finnish Social Democratic Party [SSDP], a delegation of SSDP party workers headed by K. Barlund, member of the party's executive committee and deputy of the Finnish parliament, was in the Soviet Union 2 through 9 December.

The delegation visited Moscow and the Belorussian SSR, went to industrial and agricultural enterprises, educational establishments and cultural institutions, and became familiarized with the activity of party organizations, the progress in preparing for the 27th CPSU Congress and the nationwide discussion of the draft document submitted for the congress, and the life of Soviet people. The members of the delegation had talks at the CPSU Central Committee International Section, the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, and the editorial offices of PRAVDA and EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA.

During the course of the talks, the members of the delegation stressed that the desire displayed by the CPSU and the Soviet people to do everything in their power to prevent nuclear war and strengthen universal peace, international security, and cooperation accords fully with the fundamental aspirations of their party and the strata of the Finnish people which it represents.

FINLAND'S SORSA DISCUSSES BENEFICIAL ENERGY TIES

LD121238 Moscow TASS in English 2159 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Helsinki, December 11 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov reports:

Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa stressed the great importance of Soviet-Finnish cooperation in power engineering. Addressing officials of the power engineering industry here, he noted that Finland was getting from the Soviet Union most of its energy carrier imports.

The joint design and construction of power projects, especially as regards automated power technology and the ensuring of maximum efficiency and dependability, constitutes a major area of bilateral business contacts, Kalevi Sorsa said. A contribution to these activities was made by the construction of atomic power stations near the Finnish City of Lovisa, as a result of which Finland has developed a perfect power complex. A major project of cooperation this year was the joint construction of a gas pipeline in Finnish territory to bring Soviet natural gas to Tampere and Helsinki.

The further broadening of Soviet-Finnish contacts in power engineering would make a major contribution to the development and expansion of relations of good-neighbourliness between our countries, the Finnish head of government stressed.

MATVEYEV ASSESSES EEC LUXEMBOURG SUMMIT

PM111426 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Yikentiy Matveyev "Political Observer's Opinion": "A Start or Another Impasse?"]

[Text] Yet another meeting, the 33d to date, of the leaders of the EEC states devoted to improving the association's mechanism in not just the business but also the foreign policy sphere has been held.

In recent years the search for appropriate measures and steps to ensure better co-ordination of the states' common course has been markedly increased. The desirability of switching from a course of financial and trade coordination to "political union" is continually being pointed out from official rostrums. Each time these kinds of appeals run up against "stubborn realities": both the worsening internal contradictions in the grouping and the intensifying competitive struggle as a whole in the capitalist camp. Rivalry between Western Europe and the United States and between Western Europe and Japan is, according to many specialists, the most powerful catalyst of this incessant struggle.

What new contribution did the meeting of the association leaders in Luxembourg make to the search for ways of ironing out existing disagreements and achieving the desired "harmonization"?

As with previous meetings, the projected aims were not achieved. On this point Western observers and commentators analayzing its results show no divergences in their assessments. The sought-for unity on the very important problems on the agenda of EEC activity is still far off.

The idea of creating an extensive "integrated market" remains a pious wish. The Luxembourg meeting decided that such a market must be created by 31 December 1992! The EEC countries have succeeded during their existence in markedly developing trade among themselves, but not to the desired extent. Customs and other barriers also limit progress.

The diversity of technical standards in EEC countries is another major factor. An English journalist, for example, remarked the other day that the countries even have different electric sockets...

London does not want the pound to become part of the West Eurpean currency system. There is no question, for the time being, that the powers of the European parliament in Strasbourg will be broadened or that it will be invested with legislative functions. All this reemerged at the Luxembourg meeting.

Nevertheless, a number of West European commentators are now writing about the "start" made there. They have uppermost in mind the draft "treaty on European cooperation in the foreign policy sphere," that was agreed upon in principle. The decision to set up a special secretariat from representatives of EEC countries which will be concerned with matters in that sphere indicates that policy coordination is now being placed on a practical footing. But the treaty still has to be signed and ratified by the "community" states.

It is, however, the actual content of the as-yet merely verbally expressed "joint foreign policy" which is, of course, the most important thing. What, then, are the aims and principles that the policy is to pursue?

A subsection of the draft treaty says that its provisions are not an obstacle to certain of its members carrying out closer cooperation in the security sphere within NATO. It is formulated in a deliberately ambiguous way, but even in that form it is not very congruent with a section of the same draft that points out that "closer cooperation on European security questions can substantially help strengthen Europe's independence in the foreign policy sphere."

It should be noted that "Europe" here, signifies only part of that extensive continent, namely Western Europe. The point, of course, is not terminological. You cannot operate in that vitally important sphere merely on a narrow regional basis, ignoring the basic realities. This commentator is not at all inclined to come to any kind of conclusions. It does not follow from the text of this document that its instigators -- the EEC governments -- intend to close their eyes to the realities of Europe. Their intentions in this sphere can only be essayed and tested by their practical deeds and actions.

A subsection of the document says that the governments which have approved it "intend to maintain the technical and industrial level necessary for their security." This wording gives Western commentators grounds for indicating an intention on the part of those states to act more resolutely with the aim of fending off U.S. and Japanese competition in markets and to develop their own latest technology in the face of that competition.

This is not the first time that such an aim has been declared. Achieving it requires considerable concentration of effort on the part of those who put it forward, and furthermore in those areas crucial for the success of such efforts. We will not be revealing any secrets in saying that attempts by Washington officialdom to harness the countries of Western Europe to the "star wars" program would not only not help strengthen its position in the sphere of civil technology but would lead to the exact opposite.

However, the EEC governments are far from identical in the stances they are adopting on this question of no small importance. Whereas some of them state their opposition to the space militarization program, others, on the contrary, are yielding to Transatlantic pressure.

The Luxembourg meeting made no decisions on this question. If, as is evident, there was some kind of discussion, it did not give rise to any agreement. And yet the problem of the nonmilitarization of outer space is a key one for our continent's security.

Therefore, we will not, on the whole, be rushing to conclusions about whether the Luxembourg meeting was a "start" or not, at least from the standpoint of a joint foreign policy by the EEC states. We will wait and see.

BULGARIAN COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON ANTONOV RELEASE

LD111254 Moscow TASS in English 2217 GMT 10 Dec 85

["For the Release of Sergei Antonov" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Sofia, December 10 TASS -- The hearings of the Rome trial dealing with the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul the Second, where the defendants are Bulgarian citizens Sergei Antonov, Todor Avazov and Chelyo Vasilev, are now at their closing stage. Yet, both in the course of preliminary and in the whole of the examination in court, no proofs have been found of the guilt of Bulgarian citizens or services in the attempt on the life of the pope. This is pointed out in the statement by the Bulgarian national committee in defence of Sergei Antonov in connection with the human rights being marked today.

The statement stresses that all efforts by the judges, investigator, prosecutors and the whole jury to find a confirmation of the slanderous charges made by Turkish terrorist Agca have proved to be a failure. Moreover, the recent testimony by witness Giovanni Pandico, former member of the Camorra, a criminal organization of Naples, has reaffirmed that Sergei Antonov and other defendants are victims of a sinister anti-communist conspiracy.

Contrary to these facts, the statement says, Sergei Antonov, an innocent man, who is seriously ill and mentally frustrated as a result of unjust charges, has been in custody for more than three years. Now that it has become clear to all honest people in the world and, probably, to the investigating judges that there is no Bulgarian connection in the pope attempted murder trial, the legal and moral duty of the competent Italian authorities is that the charges against Sergei Antonov be lifted and he be freed.

The whole world is marking today the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Delegation of Human Rights. In this connection such a crude violation of human rights and personal freedom of the innocent Bulgarian citizen and his arrest is a disgrace, the statment says.

FRENCH PAPER ON KGB RETALIATORY KIDNAPPING

PM131205 Paris LIBERATION in French 11 Dec 85 p 23

[Georges Marion report: "Beirut Hostages: From Russia With Love"]

[Excerpts] The Western secret services have known for a few weeks why three of the four Soviet diplomats kidnapped by Shi'ite fundamentalists in Beirut 30 September were released after "only" a month as prisoners. According to them the explanation is very simple: The KGB used the kidnapper's own methods of abduction and murder.

In the uneasy Lebanese situation such a rapid release is almost impossible. But the abduction of four Soviets, for which a hitherto totally unknown Islamic Liberation Organization claimed responsibility, was also an innovation.

On 2 October, two days after the abduction, the body of one of the hostages, 32-year-old consular secretary Arkadiy Katakov, was found in West Beirut. His murderers announced that another Soviet would be killed if the pro-Syrian militia continued to fight the Sunni fundamentalist militia for control of the city of Tripoli in the north of the country. It was a serious threat but it had no effect. On 4 October Syria sent its supporters into Tripoli and disarmed the fundamentalists.

Meanwhile it was still impossible to find the other three diplomats. The USSR then sent about 60 women and children back home to Moscow and called on its allies. First Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. The General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian intelligence services, who came specially to Beirut to see what could be done. The Fatah dissidents, who are close to the Soviets, soon became involved too, while on 24 October Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, an important hizballah leader in al-Biqa', publicly urged the kidnappers to release their hostages "if they are real Muslims."

While the intermediaries were active in the open, the Soviet special services were not inactive, according to information gleaned from the Western services. Some time after the abduction of their nationals, they in turn kidnapped around 10 people whom they put in a secure place. They included the brother of a prominent hizballah. One of these prisoners, according to the same sources, was immediately shot in the head and the body sent back to the Shi'ite fundamentalists. A message was sent with the body: If our comrades are not released, the KGB threatened, the hizballah's brother will be the next victim. The others will then be executed, one by one.

On 30 October, exactly 1 month after their abduction, Valeriy Myrikov, Oleg Spirin, and Nikolay Svirskiy were released in a Beirut street, not far from their embassy. The KGB's blackmail had worked.

RETALIATORY TERRORISM IN BEIRUT DENIED

LD131200 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 13 Dec 85

["Comment" -- TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] -- The British newspaper DAILY MAIL has published a report alleging that in retaliation for the abduction of officials of Soviet agencies in Beirut last September the U.S.S.R. staged a similar terrorist act.

This report cannot be regarded as anything less than a deliberate lie devised to cast aspersions on the principles underlying the Soviet foreign policy.

There is no doubt that the provocative story in the British newspaper from beginning to end has been cooked by British special services. It is well known in the Middle East who is pursuing the policy of state terrorism in that region, and who is to blame for the fact that the blood of Arabs has been flowing there for many years now. It is exactly imperialist quarters which bear full responsibility for the unending bandit actions against sovereign and independent Arab states and their citizens, for the persisting explosive situation in the Middle East, for the atmosphere in which extremist elements get a possibility to stage reckless acts of terror.

[signed] (TASS, December 13)

ALGERIAN PARTY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON VISIT

LD122243 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, leader of the Algerian Party delegation and chairman of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Liberation Front [FLN] visited Moscow for several days at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia made a statement to our correspondent before he left Moscow, and he answered his questions.

Here are the answers of the leader of the Algerian delegation:

Our reporter asked him: How do you evaluate the (?state) of Soviet -Algerian relations including the relations between the CPSU and FLN.

[Messaadia] "The relations with the Soviet Union are historial and they have been militant relations for a long time. [words indistinct] they are based on mutual respect. [passage indistinct]"

Our reporter asked him: How do you evaluate the current international situation and what is the role of the cooperation of the progressive and peace-loving forces, in your own view, in foiling the plans of imperialism and (?reaction).

[Messaadia] "The world is going through one of the most crucial stages (?looking at) the complex and tense [words indistinct] it is in fact a crisis of the capitalist system. This has had a serious (?effect) on the third world countries, on the developing countries. (?they caused) a delay in the (?success of) the decolonization process particularly in the Third World. Many Third World countries are still facing the problem of (?speeding up) decolonization.

"Imperialism and its reactionary extensions have been trying to [words indistinct] the nonaligned countries should (?try) more than ever before and the efforts of all the progressive and patriotic forces should be concerted in confronting all the (?conspiracies) and the (?imperialist plots). The best method for tackling these is to adhere to and be committed to the principles of the international charters like the UN charter [words indistinct]"

At the end of the statement Mohamed Cherif Messaadia said: "I thank you also for your hospitality and I take this opportunity to salute our comrades in the Soviet leadership, and first of all the comrade secretary general, Mr Gorbachev, and (?members) of the Central Committee whose headquarters we had the honor to visit, and worked with a group of its members. We are very satisfied with the warmth of the welcome and (?hospitality). I conveyed to the brother General Secretary Gorbachev, a message from the brother Secretary General and President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid -- a written message. The meeting took place in a militant and fraternal atmosphere. Once again I than [words indistinct] wishing your country, the Soviet Union, further progress and prosperity. Thank you."

PRIMAKOV ON TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA, ISRAEL

OW101115 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec 10 KYODO -- The Soviet Union is preparing for an early restoration of relations with Saudi Arabia, a Soviet expert on foreign affairs, Yevgeni Primakov, said in an interview here Tuesday.

The President of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the Soviet Union also said that his country will consider normalizing relations with Israel, if Israel participates in peace talks for the Middle East.

The Soviet Union has been actively pursing contact with Mideast countries recently. Moscow established diplomatic relations with the Sultanate of Oman in September and with the United Arab Emirates in November.

Moreover, Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, son of King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz and head of youth welfare for Saudi Arabia, was invited to the Soviet Union in August.

New Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is said to have become more flexible in dealing with the Mideast countries since the superpower summit meeting, and Primakov's opinion seems to back up the observations.

Primakov denied that the Soviet Union and Israel had held unofficial, ambassador-level contacts on normalization of relations, however, he indicated that prior withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied zone will no longer be a precondition to restored ties.

"The restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel may be considered when practical peace talks begin between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel," Primakov said.

The Soviet Union does not insist that Afghanistan be a socialist state, he said, in reiterating the Soviet position that it will pull its military forces out of Afghanistan if other countries cease their "interference" there.